

THE
ADVENTURES
OF
Ferdinand Count Fathom.

By the Author of RODERICK RANDOM.

—Materiam risus, invenit ad omnes
Occursus hominum. — — —
Ridebat curas, nec non et gaudia vulgi;
Interdum et lachrymas fundebat.—

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[Continuation of C H A P. XXXIV.]

WHEN a man's reputation is once brought in question, every trifle is by the malevolence of mankind magnified into a strong presumption against the culprit: a few whispers communicated by the envious mouth of slander, which he can have no opportunity to answer and refute, shall, in the opinion of the world, convict him of the most horrid crimes; and for one hypocrite who is decked with the honours of virtue, there are twenty good men who suffer the ignominy of vice; so well disposed are individuals to trample upon the fame of their fellow-creatures. If the most unblemished merit is not protected from this injustice, it will not be wondered at, that no quarter was given to the character of an adventurer like Fathom, who among other unlucky occurrences, had the misfortune to be recognized about this time, by his two Parisian friends sir Stentor Stiles and sir Giles Squirrel.

These worthy knights-errant had returned to their own country, after having made a very prosperous campaign in France, at the end of which, however, they very narrowly escaped the gallies; and seeing

the Polish count seated at the head of taste and politeness, they immediately circulated the story of his defeat at Paris, with many ludicrous circumstances of their own invention, and did not scruple to affirm that he was a rank impostor. When the laugh is raised upon a great man, he never fails to dwindle into contempt. Ferdinand began to perceive a change in the countenance of his friends. His company was no longer solicited with that eagerness which they had formerly expressed in his behalf: even his entertainments were neglected; when he appeared at any private or public assembly; the ladies, instead of glowing with pleasure, as formerly, now tittered or regarded him with looks of disdain; and a certain pert, little, forward coquette, with a view to put him out of countenance by raising the laugh at his expence, asked him one night, at a drum, when he had heard from his relations in Poland? She succeeded in her design upon the mirth of the audience, but was disappointed in the other part of her aim; for, our hero replied without the least mark of discomposure, ‘ They are all in good health at your servicee, ‘ madam; I wish I knew in what part of the world ‘ your relations reside, that I might return the compliment.’ By this answer, which was the more severe, as the young lady was of very doubtful extraction, he retorted the laugh upon the aggressor, though he likewise failed in his attempt upon her temper: for, she was perhaps the only person present, who equall’d himself in stability of countenance.

Notwithstanding this appearance of unconcern, he was deeply touched with these marks of alienation, in the behaviour of his friends, and foreseeing in his own disgrace, the total shipwreck of his fortune, he entered into a melancholy deliberation with himself, about the means of retrieving his importance in the beau-monde, or of turning his address into some other channel, where he could stand upon a less slippery

FERDINAND Count FATHOM.

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pery foundation. In this exercise of his thoughts, no scheme occurred more feasible, than that of securing the booty he had made, and retiring with his associate, who was also blown, into some other country, where, their names and characters being unknown, they might pursue their old plan of commerce without molestation. He imparted this suggestion to the Tyroleze, who approved the proposal of decamping, though he combated with all his might our hero's inclination to withdraw himself before the trial, by repeating the assurances of the solicitor, who told him he might depend upon being reimbursed by the sentence of the count, for great part of the sums he had expended in the course of the prosecution.

Fathom suffered himself to be persuaded by these arguments, supported with the desire of making an honourable retreat, and waiting patiently for the day of trouble, discharged his sureties, by a personal appearance in court. Yet this was not the only score he discharged that morning : the solicitor presented his own bill before they set out for Westminster-hall, and gave the count to understand that it was the custom, from time immemorial, for the client to clear with his attorney before trial. Ferdinand had nothing to object against this established rule, though he looked upon it as a bad omen, in spite of all the solicitor's confidence and protestations ; and he was not a little confounded, when looking into the contents, he found himself charged with 350 attendances. He knew it was not his interest to disoblige his lawyer at such a juncture ; nevertheless, he could not help expostulating with him on this article, which seemed to be so falsely stated with regard to the number ; when his questions drew on an explanation, by which he found he had incurred the penalty of three shillings and four-pence for every time he chanced to meet the conscientious attorney, either in the park, the coffee-house, or the street, provided they had exchanged the common salutation : and he

had great reason to believe the solicitor had often thrown himself in his way, with a view to swell this item of his account.

With this extortion our adventurer was fain to comply, because he lay at the mercy of the caitiff; accordingly, he with a good grace paid the demand, which including his former disbursements, amounted to three hundred and sixty-five pounds eleven shillings three-pence three farthings, and then presenting himself before the judge, quietly submitted to the laws of the realm. His council behaved like men of consummate abilities in their profession; they exerted themselves with equal industry, eloquence and erudition, in their endeavours to perplex the truth, browbeat the evidence, puzzle the judge, and mislead the jury: but the defendant found himself woefully disappointed in the deposition of Trapwell's journeyman, whom the solicitor pretended to have converted to his interest: this witness, as the attorney afterwards declared, played booty, and the facts came out so clear, that Ferdinand count Fathom was convicted of criminal conversation with the plaintiff's wife, and cast in fifteen hundred pounds, under the denomination of damages.

He was not so much surprized as afflicted at this decision, because he saw it gradually approaching from the examination of the first evidence: his thoughts were now employed in casting about for some method of deliverance, from the snare in which he found himself entangled. To escape he foresaw it would be impracticable, as Trapwell would undoubtedly be prepared for arresting him before he could quit Westminster-hall; he was too well acquainted with Ratchkali's principles, to expect any assistance from that quarter, in money-matters; and he was utterly averse to the payment of the sum awarded against him, which would have exhausted his whole fortune. He therefore resolved to try the friendship of some persons of fashion, with whom he

he had maintained an intimacy of correspondence ; should they fail him in the day of his necessity, he proposed to have recourse to his former sureties, one of whom he meant to bilk, while the other might accompany him in his retreat : or, should both these expedients miscarry, he determined, rather than part with his effects, to undergo the most disagreeable confinement, in hope of obtaining the jailor's connivance at his escape.

These resolutions being taken, he met his fate with great fortitude and equanimity, and calmly suffered himself to be conveyed to the house of a sheriff's officer, who, as he made his exit from the hall, according to his own expectation, executed a writ against him at the suit of Trapwell, for a debt of two thousand pounds. To this place he was followed by his solicitor, who was allured by the prospect of another job, and who with great demonstrations of satisfaction, congratulated him upon the happy issue of the trial ; arrogating to himself the merit of having saved him eight thousand pounds, in the article of damages, by the previous steps he had taken, and the noble defence that he and his friends the council had made for their client : he even hinted an expectation of receiving a gratuity for his extraordinary care and discretion.

Fathom, galled as he was with his misfortune, and enraged at the effrontery of this petitfogger, maintained a serenity of countenance, and sent the attorney with a message to the plaintiff, importing, that as he was a foreigner, and could not be supposed to have so much cash about him as to spare fifteen hundred pounds from the funds of his ordinary expence, he would grant him a bond payable in two months, during which period he should be able to procure a proper remittance from his own estate. While the solicitor was employed in this negociation, he dispatched his valet de chambre to one nobleman, and Maurice to another, with billets, signifying the nature

of the verdict which his adversary had obtained, and desiring that each would lend him a thousand pounds upon his parole, until he could negotiate bills upon the continent.

His three messengers returned almost at the same instant of time, and these were the answers they brought back.

Trapwell absolutely rejected his personal security; and threatened him with all the horrors of a gaol, unless he woud immediately discharge the debt, or procure sufficient bondsmen; and one of his quality-friends, favoured him with this reply to his request:

‘ My dear Count,

‘ I am mortally chagrined at the triumph you have
‘ furnished to that rascally citizen. By the lard! the
‘ judge must have been in the terrors of cuckoldom,
‘ to influence the decision; and the jury a mere herd
‘ of horned beasts, to bring in such a barbarous ver-
‘ dict. Egad! at this rate no person will be able
‘ to lie with another man’s wife, but at the risk of a
‘ cursed prosecution. But to wave this disagreeable
‘ circumstance, which you must strive to forget; I
‘ declare my mortification is still the greater, because
‘ I cannot at present supply you with the trifle your
‘ present exigency requires; for, to tell you a secret,
‘ my own finances are in damnable confusion. But
‘ a man of count Fathom’s figure and address can
‘ never be puzzled for the want of such a poultry
‘ sum. Adieu, my dear count! we shall, I suppose,
‘ have the pleasure of seeing you to-morrow at
‘ White’s: mean while I have the honour to be with
‘ the most perfect attachment,

‘ Yours,

‘ GRIZZLEGRIN.’

The other noble peer to whom he addressed himself on this occasion, cherished the same sentiments of virtue, friendship, and generosity; but his expres-
sion

tion was so different, that we shall, for the edification of the reader, transcribe his letter in his own words :

‘ Sir,
 I was never more astonished than at the receipt
 of your very extraordinary billet, wherein you fo-
 licit the loan of a thousand pounds, which you
 desire may be sent with the bearer on the faith of
 your parole. Sir, I have no money to send you or
 lend you; and cannot help repeating my expres-
 sions of surprize at your confidence in making such
 a strange and unwarranted demand. ’Tis true, I
 may have made professions of friendship, while I
 looked upon you as a person of honour and good
 morals; but now that you are convicted of such a
 flagrant violation of that kingdom where you have
 been treated with such hospitality and respect, I
 think myself fully absolved from any such condi-
 tional promise, which indeed is never interpreted
 into any other than a bare compliment. I am
 sorry you have involved your character and fortune
 in such a disagreeable affair, and am,

‘ Sir, your’s, &c.

‘ TROMPINGTON.’

Ferdinand was not such a novice in the world as to be disappointed at these repulses; especially as he had laid very little stress upon the application which was made by way of an experiment upon the gratitude or caprice of those two noblemen, whom he had actually more than once obliged with the same sort of assistance which he now solicited, though not to such a considerable amount.

Having nothing further to expect from the fashionable world, he sent the Tyroleze to the person who had been bail for his appearance, with full instructions to explain his present occasion in the most favourable light, and desire he would reinforce the

credit of the count with his security ; but that gentleman, though he placed the most perfect confidence on the honour of our hero, and would have willingly entered into bonds again for his personal appearance, was not quite so well satisfied of his circumstances, as to become liable for the payment of two thousand pounds ; an expence which, in his opinion, the finances of no foreign count were able to defray : he therefore lent a deaf ear to the most pressing remonstrances of the ambassador, who had recourse to several other merchants, with the same bad success ; so that the prisoner despairing of bail, endeavoured to persuade Ratchkali, that it would be his interest to contribute a thousand pounds towards his discharge, that he might be enabled to quit England with a good grace, and execute his part of the plan they had projected.

So powerful was his eloquence on the occasion, and such strength of argument did he use, that even the Tyroleze seemed convinced, though reluctantly, and agreed to advance the necessary sum upon the bond and judgment of our adventurer, who being disabled from transacting his own affairs in person, was obliged to intrust Ratchkali with his keys, papers and power of attorney, under the check and inspection of his faithful Maurice and the solicitor, whose fidelity he bespoke with the promise of an ample recompence.

C H A P. XXXVIII.

The biter is bit.

YET he had no sooner committed his effects to the care of this triumvirate, than his fancy was visited with direful warnings, which produced cold sweats and palpitations, and threw him into such agonies of apprehension as he had never known before. He remembered the former desertion of the Tyroleze, the recent villany of the solicitor, and recollect

collected the remarks he had made upon the disposition and character of his valet, which evinced him a fit companion for the other two.

Alarmed at these reflections, he intreated the bailiff to indulge him with a visit to his own loding, and even offered one hundred guineas as a gratification for his compliance. But the officer, who had formerly lost a considerable sum by the escape of a prisoner, would not run any risk in an affair of such consequence, and our hero was obliged to submit to the tortures of his own presaging fears. After he had waited five hours in the most racking impatience, he saw the attorney enter with all the marks of hurry, fatigue and consternation, and heard him exclaim,

' Good God ! have you seen the gentleman ?'

Fathom found his fears realized in this interrogation, to which he answered in a tone of horror and dismay, ' What gentleman ? I suppose I am robbed : speak, and keep me no longer in suspense.'— ' Robbed !' cried the attorney, ' the Lord forbid ! I hope you can depend upon the person you empowered to receive your jewels and cash. I must own his proceedings are a little extraordinary : for after he had rummaged your scrutore, from which in presence of me and your servant, he took one hundred and fifty guineas, a parcel of diamond rings and buckles, according to this here inventory, which I wrote with my own hand, and East-India bonds to the tune of five hundred more, we adjourned to Garraway's, where he left me alone, under pretence of going to a broker of his acquaintance who lived in the neighbourhood, while the valet, as I imagined, waited for us in the alley. Well, Sir, he staid so long, that I began to be uneasy, and at length resolved to send the servant in quest of him, but when I went out for that purpose, deuce a servant was to be found ; though I in person enquired for him at every alehouse within half a mile of the place. I then dispatched no less than

than five ticket-porters upon the scent after them, and I myself, by a direction from the bar-keeper, went to signor Ratchkali's lodgings, where, as they told me, he had not been seen since nine o'clock in the morning. Upon this intimation, I came directly hither to give you timely notice, that you may without delay take measures for your own security. The best thing you can do, is to take out writs for apprehending him, in the counties of Middlesex, Surry, Kent and Essex, and I shall put them in the hands of trusty and diligent officers, who will soon ferret him out of his lurking-place, provided he sculks within ten miles of the bills of mortality: to be sure the job will be expensive; and all these runners must be paid before-hand. But what then? the defendant is worth powder, and if we can once secure him, I'll warrant the prosecution will quit cost.'

Fathom was almost choaked with concern and resentment at the news of this mischance, so that he could not utter one word until this narrative was finished. Nor was his suspicion confined to the Tyroleze and his own lacquey; he considered the solicitor as their accomplice and director, and was so much provoked at the latter part of his harangue, that his discretion seemed to vanish, and collaring the attorney, 'Villain!' said he, 'you yourself have been a principal actor in this robbery; then,' turning to the by-standers, 'and I desire in the king's name, that he may be secured, until I can make oath before a magistrate in support of the charge. If you refuse your assistance in detaining him, I will make immediate application to one of the secretaries of state who is my particular friend, and he will see justice done to all parties.'

At mention of this formidable name, the bailiff and his whole family were in commotion to obstruct the retreat of the lawyer, who stood aghast, and trembled under the grasp of our adventurer; but soon as he

he found himself delivered from this embrace, by the interposition of the spectators, and collected his spirits, which had been suddenly dissipated by Fathom's unexpected assault, he began to display one art of his occupation, which he always reserved for extraordinary occasions : this was the talent of abuse, which he poured forth with such fluency of opprobrious language, that our hero smarting as he was, and almost desperate with his loss, deviated from that temperance of behaviour which he had hitherto preserved, and snatching up the poker, with one stroke opened a deep trench upon the attorney's skull, that extended from the hind head almost to the upper part of the nose, upon each side of which it discharged a sanguine stream. Notwithstanding the pain of this application, the solicitor was transported with joy at the sense of the smart, and inwardly congratulated himself upon the appearance of his own blood, which he no sooner perceived, than he exclaimed, ' I am a dead man,' and fell upon the floor at full length.

Immediate recourse was had to a surgeon in the neighbourhood, who having examined the wound, declared there was a dangerous depression of the first table of the skull, and that if he could save the patient's life, without the application of the trepan, it would be one of the greatest cures that ever were performed. By this time, Fathom's first transport being overblown, he summoned up his whole resolution, and reflected upon his own ruin, with that fortitude which had never failed him in the emergencies of his fate : little disturbed at the prognostic of the surgeon, which he considered in the right point of view ; ' Sir,' said he, ' I am not so unacquainted with the resistance of an attorney's skull, as to believe the chastisement I have bestowed on him will at all endanger his life, which is in much greater jeopardy from the hands of the common executioner : for, notwithstanding this accident, I am determined to prosecute the rascal for robbery,

with

' with the utmost severity of the law; and that I
' may have a sufficient fund left for that prosecution,
' I shall not at present throw away one farthing in
' unnecessary expence, but insist upon being conveyed
' to prison without farther delay.'

This declaration was equally unwelcome to the bailiff, surgeon and solicitor, who upon the supposition that the count was a person of fortune, and would rather part with an immense sum, than incur the ignominy of a gaol, or involve himself in another disgraceful law-suit, had resolved to fleece him to the utmost of their power. But, now the attorney finding him determined to set his fate at defiance, and to retort upon him a prosecution which he had no mind to undergo, began to repent heartily of the provocation he had given, and to think seriously on some method to overcome the obstinacy of the incensed foreigner. With this view, while the bailiff conducted him to bed, in another apartment, he desired the catchpole to act the part of a mediator between him and the count, and furnished him with proper instructions for that purpose. Accordingly, the landlord on his return, told Fathom that he was sure the solicitor was not a man for this world; for that he had left him deprived of his senses, and praying to God with great devotion, for mercy to his murderer: he then exhorted him with many protestations of friendship, to compromise the unhappy affair, by exchanging releases with the attorney before his delirium should be known, otherwise he would bring himself into a most dangerous premunire, whether the plaintiff should die of his wound, or live to prosecute him for the assault: ' and with regard to your charge of robbery against him,' said he, ' as it is no more than a suspicion, unsupported by the least shadow of evidence, the bill would be thrown out, and then he might sue you for damages. I therefore, out of pure friend-

ship and good nature advise you to compromise the affair, and if you think proper, will endeavour to bring about a mutual release.'

Our hero, whose passion was by this time pretty well cooled, saw reason for assenting to the proposal; upon which the deed was immediately executed, the mediator's bill was discharged; and Ferdinand conveyed in an hackney coach to prison, after he had empowered his own landlord to discharge his servants, and convert his effects into ready money. Thus he saw himself, in the course of a few hours, deprived of his reputation, rank, liberty and friends; and his fortune reduced from two thousand pounds, to something less than two hundred, fifty of which he had carried to gaol in his pocket.

C H A P. XXXVI.

Our adventurer is made acquainted with a new scene of life.

JUST as he entered these mansions of misery, his ears were invaded with an hoarse and dreadful voice, exclaiming, ' You, Bess Beetle, score a couple of fresh eggs, a pennyworth of butter, and half a pint of mountain to the king; and stop credit till the bill is paid; he is now debtor for fifteen shillings and sixpence, and damn me if I trust him one farthing more, if he was the best king in Christendom: and d'ye hear, send ragged head with five pounds of potatoes for major Macleaver's supper, and let him have what drink he wants; the fat widow gentlewoman from Pimlico has promised to quit his score. Sir Mungo Barebones may have some hasty pudding and small beer, though I don't expect to see his coin, no more than to receive the eighteen pence I laid out for a pair of breeches to his backside. What then? he's a quiet sort of a body, and a great scholar, and it was a scandal to the place, to see him going about in that naked condition:

dition : as for the mad Frenchman with the beard, if you give him so much as a cheese-paring, you b—ch, I'll send you back to the hole, among your old companions ; an impudent dog ! I'll teach him to draw his sword upon the governor of an English county gaol. What ! I suppose he thought he had to do with a French hang-tang-dang, rabbit him ! he shall eat his white feather before I give him credit for a morsel of bread.'

Although our adventurer was very little disposed, at this juncture, to make observations foreign to his own affairs, he could not help taking notice of these extraordinary injunctions ; especially those concerning the person who was intitled king, whom, however, he supposed to be some prisoner elected as the magistrate by the joint suffrage of their fellows. Having taken possession of his chamber, which he rented at five shillings a week, and being ill at ease in his own thoughts, he forthwith secured his door, undressed and went to bed, in which, though it was none of the most elegant or inviting couches, he enjoyed profound repose after the accumulated fatigues and mortifications of the day. Next morning, after breakfast, the keeper entered his apartment, and gave him to understand, that the gentlemen under his care having heard of the count's arrival, had deputed one of their number to wait upon him with the compliments of condolance suitable to the occasion, and invite him to become a member of their society. Our hero could not politely dispense with this instance of civility, and their ambassador being instantly introduced by the name of captain Minikin, saluted him with great solemnity.

This was a person equally remarkable for his extraordinary figure and address ; his age seemed to border upon forty, his stature amounted to five feet, his visage was long, meagre, and weather-beaten, and his aspect, though not quite rueful, exhibited a certain formality, which was the result of care and conscious importance.

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He was very little encumbered with flesh and blood; yet what body he had was well-proportioned, his limbs were elegantly turned, and by his carriage he was well intitled to that compliment which we pay to any person, when we say he has very much the air of a gentleman. There was also an evident singularity in his dress, which, though intended as an improvement, appeared to be an extravagant exaggeration of the mode, and at once evinced him an original to the discerning eyes of our adventurer, who received him with his usual complaisance, and made a very eloquent acknowledgement of the honour and satisfaction he received from the visit of the representative, and the hospitality of his constituents. The captain's peculiarities were not confined to his external appearance; for his voice resembled the sound of a bassoon, or the aggregate hum of a whole bee-hive, and his discourse was almost nothing else than a series of quotations from the English poets, interlarded with French phrases, which he retained for their significance, on the recommendation of his friends, being himself unacquainted with that or any other outlandish tongue.

Fathom, finding this gentleman of a very communicative disposition, thought he could not have a fairer opportunity of learning the history of his fellow-prisoners; and turning the conversation on that subject, was not disappointed in his expectation. ‘ I ‘ don’t doubt, sir,’ said he, with the utmost solemnity of declamation, ‘ but you look with horror upon ‘ every object that surrounds you in this uncomfort- ‘ able place; but nevertheless here are some, who, as ‘ my friend Shakespeare has it, “ have seen better “ days, and have with holy bell been knolled to “ church; and sat at good men’s feasts, and wiped “ their eyes of drops that sacred pity hath engendered” ‘ You must know, sir, that exclusive of the Canaille, ‘ or the *profanum vulgus*, as they are stiled by Horace, ‘ there are several small communities in the gaol, con- ‘ sisting of people who are attracted by the manners ‘ and

and dispositions of each other: for this place, sir, is quite a microcosm; and as the great world, so is this a "stage, and all the men and women merely players." For my own part, sir, I have always made it a maxim to associate with the best company I can find: not that I pretend to boast of my family or extraction; because you know, as the poet says, *vix ea nostra voco*. My father, 'tis true, was a man that piqued himself upon his pedigree, as well as upon his politesse and personal merit; for he had been a very old officer in the army, and I myself may say I was born with a spontoon in my hand. Sir, I have had the honour to serve his majesty these twenty years, and have been bandied about in the course of duty through all the British plantations, and you see the recompence of all my service. But this is a disagreeable subject, and therefore I shall wave it; however, as Butler observes,

" My only comfort is, that now
" My dubbolt fortune is so low,
" That either it must quickly end,
" Or turn about again and niend."

And now, to return from this digression, you will perhaps be surprized to hear that the head or chairman of our club is really a sovereign prince. No less I'll assure you than the celebrated Theodore, king of C-rf-ca, who lies in prison for a debt of a few hundred pounds. *Heu! quantum mutatus ab illo.* It is not my busines to censure the conduct of my superiors: but I always speak my mind in a cavalier manner, and as, according to the Spectator, talking to a friend is no more than thinking aloud; *entre nous*, his Corsican majesty has been scurvily treated by a certain administration: be that as it will, he is a personage of a very portly appearance, and is quite master of the bienfiance. Besides, they will find it their interest to have recourse again to his alliance; and in that case some

Some of us may expect to profit by his restoration : but few words are best.

He that maintains the second rank in our assembly, is one Major Macleaver, an Irish gentleman, who has served abroad; a soldier of fortune, sir, a man of unquestionable honour and courage, but a little overbearing, in consequence of his knowledge and experience. He is a person of a good address to be sure, and quite free of the *mauvaise honte*; and he may have seen a good deal of service; but what then? other people may be as good as he, though they have not had such opportunities: if he speaks five or six languages, he does not pretend to any taste in the liberal arts, which are the criterion of an accomplished gentleman. The next is Sir Mungo Barebones, the representative of a very ancient family in the North; his affairs are very much *derangee*, but he is a gentleman of great probity and learning, and at present engaged in a very grand scheme, which, if he can bring it to bear, will render him famous to all posterity: no less than the conversion of the Jews and the Gentiles. The project, I own, looks chimeraical to one who has not conversed with the author; but in my opinion, he has clearly demonstrated, from an anagrammatical analysis of a certain Hebrew word, that his present majesty, whom God preserve, is the person pointed at in scripture, as the temporal Messiah of the Jews; and if he could once raise by subscription such a trifling sum as twelve hundred thousand pounds, I make no doubt but he would accomplish his aim, vast and romantic as it seems to be.

Besides these, we have another messmate, who is a French chevalier, an odd sort of a man, a kind of Lazarillo de Tormes, a Caricatura; he wears a long beard, pretends to be a great poet, and makes a damned *fratas* with his verses. The king has been once obliged to exert his authority over him more than once, by ordering him into close confinement, for which he was so rash as to send his majesty a challenge

lenge ; but he afterwards made his submission, and was again taken into favour : the truth is, I believe his brain is a little disordered, and he being a stranger, we overlook his extravagancies.

'Sir, we shall think ourselves happy in your accessi-on to our society : you will be under no sort of restraint ; for, though we dine at one table, every individual calls and pays for his own mess. Our conversation, such as it is, will not, I hope, be disagreeable ; and though we have not opportunities of breathing the pure Arcadian air, and cannot, "under the shade of 'menlancholy boughs, lose and neglect the creeping 'hours of time,' we may enjoy ourfelves over a glaiss of punch or a dish of tea ; nor are we destitute of friends who visit us in these shades of distress. The major has a numerous acquaintance of both sexes ; among others, a first cousin of good fortune, who with her daughters, often chear our solitude ; she is a very sensible lady-like gentlewoman, and the young ladies have a certaln *degagée* air, that plainly shews they have seen the best company : besides, I will venture to recommend Mrs. Minikin, as a woman of tolerable breeding and capacity, who, I hope, will not be found altogether deficient in the accomplishments of the sex. So that we find means to make little parties, in which the time glides away insensibly. Then I have a small collection of books, which are at your service. You may amuse yourself with Shakespeare, or Milton, or Don Quixote, or any of our modern authors that are worth reading, such as the adventures of Loveill, Lady Frail, George Edwards, Joe Thompson, Bamp-fylde More Carew, Young Scarron, and Miss Betsy Thoughtless ; and if you have a taste for drawing, I can entertain you with a parcel of prints by the best masters.'

A man of our hero's politenesf could not help expressing himself in the warmest terms of gratitude for this courteous declaration. He thanked the captain in particular for his obliging offers, and begged he would

would be so good as to present his respects to the society, of which he longed to be a member. It was determined, therefore, that Minikin should return in an hour, when the count would be dressed, in order to conduct him into the presence of his majesty : and he had already taken his leave for the present, when, all of a sudden he came back, and taking hold of a waistcoat that lay upon a chair, ‘ sir,’ said he, ‘ give me leave to look at that fringe; I think it is the most elegant knitting I ever saw : but pray, sir, are not these quite out of fashion ? I thought plain silk, such as this that I wear, had been the mode, with the pockets very low.’ Before Fathom had time to make any sort of reply, he took notice of his hat and pumps ; the first of which he said was too narrow in the brims, and the last an inch too low in the heels ; indeed they formed a remarkable contrast with his own : for, exclusive of the fashion of the cock, which resembled the form of a Roman galley, the brim of his hat, if properly spread, would have projected a shade sufficient to shelter a whole file of musqueteers from the heat of summer’s sun ; and the heels of his shoes were so high as to raise his feet three inches at least from the surface of the earth.

Having made these observations, for the credit of his taste, he retired ; and returning at the time appointed, accompanied Ferdinand to the apartment of the king, at the doors of which their ears were invaded with a strange sound, being that of an human voice imitating the noise of a drum. The captain hearing this alarm, made a full stop, and giving the count to understand that his majesty was busy, begged he would not take it amiss, if the introduction should be delayed for a few moments. Fathom, curious to know the meaning of what he had heard, applied to his guide for information, and learning that the king and the major, whom he had nominated to the post of his general in chief, were employed in landing troops upon the Genoese territory ; that is, that they were

were settling before-hand the manner of their disembarkation.

He then, by the direction of this conductor, reconnoitred them through the key-hole, and perceived the sovereign and his minister sitting on the opposite sides of a deal board table, covered with a large chart or map, upon which he saw a great number of muscle and oyster-shells, ranged in a certain order, and at a little distance, several regular squares and columus made of cards cut in small pieces. The prince himself, whose eyes were reinforced by spectacles, surveyed this armament with great attention, while the general put the whole in action, and conducted their motions by beat of drum. The muscle-shells, according to Minikin's explanation, represented the transports, the oyster-shells were considered as the men of war that covered the troops in landing, and the pieces of card exhibited the different bodies into which the army was formed upon its disembarkation.

As an affair of such consequence could not be transacted without opposition, they had provided divers ambuscades, consisting of the enemy, whom they represented by grey pease: and accordingly general Magleaver perceiving the said grey pease marching along shore, to attack his forces before they could be drawn up in battalia, thus addressed himself to the oyster shells in an audible voice: ‘ You men of war, don’t you see the front of the enemy advancing, and the rest of the detachment following out of sight? ‘ Arrah! the devil burn you, why don’t you come ashore and open your batteries?’ So saying, he pushed the shells towards the beach, performed the cannonading with the voice, the grey pease were soon put in confusion, the general was beat, the cards marched forwards in order of battle, and the enemy having retreated with great precipitation, they took possession of their ground without further difficulty.

C H A P. XL.

He contemplates majesty and its satellites in eclipse..

THIS expedition being happily finished, general Macleaver put the whole army, navy, transports, and scene of action into a canvas bag, the prince unsaddled his nose, and captain Minikin being admitted, our hero was introduced in form. Very gracious was the reception he met with from his majesty, who, with a most princely demeanour, welcomed him to court, and even seated him on his right hand, in token of particular regard. True it is, this presence chamber was not so superb, nor the appearance of the king so magnificent, as to render such an honour intoxicating to any person of our hero's coolness and discretion ; in lieu of tapestry, the apartment was hung with halfpenny ballads, a truckle-bed without curtains supplied the place of a canopy, and instead of a crown his majesty wore a woollen night-cap. Yet, in spite of these disadvantages, there was an air of dignity in his deportment, and a nice physiognomist would have perceived something majestic in the features of his countenance.

He was certainly a personage of a very prepossessing mien, his manners were engaging ; his conversation agreeable, and any man whose heart was subject to the meltings of humanity, would have deplored his distress, and looked upon him as a most pathetic instance of that miserable reverse to which all human grandeur is exposed. His fall was even greater than that of Belisarius, who after having obtained many glorious victories over the enemies of his country, is said to have been reduced to such extremity of indigence, that in his old age, when he was deprived of his eyesight, he sat upon the high-way like a common mendicant, imploring the charity of passengers in the piteous exclamation of *Date obolum Belisario* ; that is, ' Spare a farthing to your poor old soldier Belisarius.' I say, this general's disgrace was not so remarkable

as that of Theodore, because he was the servant of Justinian; consequently his fortune depended upon the nod of that emperor: whereas the other actually possessed the throne of sovereignty by the best of all titles, namely, the unanimous election of the people over whom he reigned, and attracted the eyes of all Europe, by the efforts he made in breaking the bands of oppression, and vindicating that liberty which is the birthright of man.

The English of former days, alike renowned for generosity and valour, treated those hostile princes, whose fate it was to wear their chains, with such delicacy of benevolence, as even dispelled the horrors of captivity; but their posterity of this refined age feel no compunction at seeing an unfortunate monarch, their former friend, ally, and partizan, languish amidst the miseries of a loathsome gaol, for a poultry debt contracted in their own service. But, moralizing apart, our hero had not long conversed with this extraordinary debtor, who in his present condition assumed no other title than that of Baron, than he perceived in him a spirit of Quixotism, which all his experience, together with the vicissitudes of his fortune, had not been able to overcome; not that his ideas soared to such a pitch of extravagant hope as that which took possession of his messmates, who frequently quarrelled one with another about the degrees of favour to which they should be intitled after the king's restoration: but he firmly believed that affairs would speedily take such a turn in Italy, as would point out to the English court the expediency of employing him again: and this persuasion seemed to support him against every species of poverty and mortification.

While they were busy in trimming the balance of power on the other side of the Alps, their deliberations were interrupted by the arrival of a scullion, who came to receive their orders touching the bill of fare for dinner, and his majesty found much more dif-

difficulty in settling this important concern, than in compromising all the difference between the emperor and the queen of Spain. At length, however, general Macleaver undertook the office of purveyor for his prince; captain Minikin insisted upon treating the count, and in a little time the table was covered with a cloth, which, for the sake of my delicate readers, I shall not attempt to describe.

At this period, they were joined by Sir Mungo Barebones, who, having found means to purchase a couple of mutton chops, had cooked a mess of brotit, which he now brought in a saucēpan to the general rendezvous: this was the most remarkable object which had hitherto presented itself to the eyes of Fathom: being naturally of meagre habit, he was, by indigence and hard study, wore almost to the bone, and so bended towards the earth, that in walking his body described at least 150 degrees of a circle. The want of stockings and shoes he supplied with a jockey straight boot and an half-jack. His thighs and middle were eased in a monstrous pair of brown trunk breeches, which the keeper bought for his use from the executor of a Dutch seaman who had lately died in the jail: his shirt retained no signs of its original colour, his body was shrouded in an old greasy tattered plaid night-gown: a blue and white handkerchief surrounded his head, and his looks betokened that immense load of care, which he had voluntarily incurred for the eternal salvation of sinners. Yet this figure, uncouth as it was, made his compliments to our adventurer in terms of the most elegant address, and in the course of conversation disclosed a great fund of valuable knowledge. He had appeared in the great world, and bore divers offices of dignity and trust with universal applause: his courage was undoubted, his morals were unimpeached, and his person held in great veneration and esteem; when his evil genius engaged him in the study of Hebrew, and the mysteries of the Jewish religion, which fairly disordered his brain, and

rendered him incapable of managing his temporal affairs. When he ought to have been employed in the functions of his post, he was always wrapt in visionary conferences with Moses on the mount ; rather than regulate the œconomy of his household, he chose to exert his endeavours in settling the precise meaning of the word *Elohim* ; and having discovered that now the period was come, when the Jews and Gentiles would be converted, he postponed every other consideration, in order to facilitate that great and glorious event.

By this time, Ferdinand had seen every member of the club, except the French chevalier, who seemed to be quite neglected by the society ; for his name was not once mentioned during this communication, and they sat down to dinner, without asking whether he was dead or alive. The king having regaled himself with a plate of oxcheek ; the major, who complained that his appetite had forsaken him, amused himself with some forty hards eggs, malaxed with salt-butter ; the knight indulged upon his soup and bouillé, and the captain entertained our adventurer with a neck of veal roasted with potatoes ; but before Fathom could make use of his knife and fork, he was summoned to the door, where he found the chevalier in great agitation, his eyes sparkling like coals of fire.

Our hero was not a little surprized at this apparition, who having asked pardon for the freedom he had used, observed, that understanding the count was a foreigner, he could not dispense with appealing of him concerning an outrage he had suffered from the keeper, who, without any regard to his rank or misfortunes, had been base enough to refuse him credit for a few necessaries, until he could have a remittance from his steward in France ; he therefore conjured count Fathom, as a stranger and nobleman like himself, to be the messenger of defiance, which he resolved to send to that brutal gaoler, that for the future

he might learn to make proper distinctions in the exercise of his function.

Fathom, who had no inclination to offend this choleric Frenchman, assured him that he might depend upon his friendship; and, in the mean time, prevailed upon him to accept of a small supply, in consequence of which he procured a pound of sausages, and joined the rest of the company without delay; making a very suitable addition to such an assemblage of rarities. Tho' his age did not exceed thirty years, his beard, which was of a brindled hue, flowed down, like Aaron's, to his middle: upon his legs he wore red stockings rolled up over the joint of the knee, his breeches were blue drab with vellum button-holes, and garters of gold lace, his waist-coat of scarlet, his coat of rusty black cloth, his hair twisted into a ramelle, hung down to his rump, of the colour of jet, and his hat was adorned with a white feather.

This original had formed many ingenious schemes to increase the glory and grandeur of France, but was discouraged by cardinal Fleury, who, in all appearance jealous of his great talents, not only rejected his projects, but even sent him to prison, on pretence of being offended at his impertinence. Perceiving that, like the prophet, he had no honour in his own country, he no sooner obtained his release, than he retired to England, where he was prompted by his philanthropy to propose an expedient to our ministry, which would have saved a vast effusion of blood and treasure; this was an agreement between the queen of Hungary and the late emperor, to decide their pretensions by a single combat; in which case he offered himself as the Bavarian champion, but in this endeavour he also proved unsuccessful; then turning his attention to the delights of poetry, he became so enamoured of the muse, that he neglected every other consideration; and she, as usual, gradually conducted him to the authors never-failing goal; a place of rest.

appointed for all those sinners whom the profane love
of poesy hath led astray.

C H A P. XLI.

*One quarrel is compromised, and another decided, by un-
usual arms.*

A MONG other topics of conversation that were discussed at this genial meeting, Sir Mungo's scheme was brought upon the carpet by his majesty, who was graciously pleased to ask how his subscription filled? To this interrogation the knight answered, that he met with great opposition from a spirit of levity and self-conceit, which seemed to prevail in this generation; but, that no difficulties should discourage him from persevering in his duty, and he trusted in God, that in a very little time he shall be able to confute and overthrow the false philosophy of the moderns, and to restore the writings of Moses to that pre-eminence and veneration which is due to an inspired author. He spoke of the immortal Newton with infinite contempt, and undertook to extract from the Pentateuch a system of chronology which would ascertain the progress of time since the fourth day of the creation to the present hour, with such exactness, that not one vibration of a pendulum should be lost! nay, he affirmed that the perfection of all arts and sciences might be attained by studying these sacred memoirs; and that he himself did not despair of learning from them the art of transmuting baser metals into gold.

The chevalier, though he did not pretend to contradict these assertions, was too much attached to his own religion to acquiesce in the knight's project of converting the Jews and the Gentiles to the protestant heresy, which, he said, God Almighty would never suffer to triumph over the interests of his own holy catholic church. This objection produced abundance of altercation between two very unequal disputants, and

and the Frenchman, finding himself puzzled by the learning of his antagonist, had recourse to the *argumentum ad hominem*, by laying his hand upon his sword, and declaring that he was ready to lose the last drop of his blood in opposition to such a damnable scheme.

Sir Mungo, though in all appearance reduced to the last stage of animal existence, no sooner heard this epithet applied to his plan, than his eyes gleamed like lightning; he sprung from his seat with the agility of a grass-hopper, and darting himself out at the door, like an arrow from a bow, re-appeared in a moment with a long rusty weapon, which might have been shewn among a collection of rarities as the sword of Guy earl of Warwick. This implement he brandished over the chevalier's head, with the dexterity of an old prize-fighter, exclaiming, in the French language, 'Thou art a profane wretch marked out for the vengeance of heaven, whose unworthy minister I am; ' and here thou shalt fall by the sword of the Lord and of Gideon.'

The chevalier, unterrified by this dreadful salutation, desired he would accompany him to a more convenient place; and the world might have been deprived of one or both these knights-errant, had not general Macleaver, at the desire of his majesty, interposed, and found means to bring matters to an accommodation.

In the afternoon, the society was visited by the major's cousin and her daughters, who no sooner appeared, than they were recognized by our adventurer; and his acquaintance with them renewed in such a manner as alarmed the delicacy of captain Minikin, who in the evening repaired to the count's apartment, and, with a very formal physiognomy, accosted him in these words; 'Sir, I beg pardon for this intrusion; ' but I come to consult you about an affair in which ' my honour is concerned; and a soldier without honour, you know, is no better than a body without a

soul. I have always admired that speech of Hotspur in the first part of Henry the Fourth.

" By heaven, methinks it were an easie leap
" To pluck bright honour from the pale-fac'd
 moon;
" Or dive into the bottom of the deep,
" Where fathom-line could never touch the ground,
" And pluck up drowned honour by the locks."—

" There is a boldness and ease in the expression, and the images are very picturesque. But, without any further preamble; pray, sir, give me leave to ask how long you have been acquainted with those ladies, who drank tea with us this afternoon? You'll forgive the question, sir, when I tell you that major Macleaver introduced Mrs. Minikin to them, as to ladies of character, and, I don't know how sir, I have a sort of presentiment that my wife has been imposed upon. Perhaps I may be mistaken, and God grant I may. But there was a *je ne scai quoy* in their behaviour to-day, which begins to alarm my suspicion. Sir, I have nothing but my reputation to depend upon; and I hope you will excuse me, when I earnestly beg to know what rank they maintain in life."

Fathom, without minding the consequence, told him with a simper, that he knew them to be very good-natured ladies, who devoted themselves to the happiness of mankind. This explanation had no sooner escaped from his lips, than the captain's face began to glow with indignation, his eyes seemed bursting from their spheres, he swelled to twice his natural dimensions, and raising himself on his tiptoes, pronounced, in a strain that emulated thunder, " Blood! sir, you seem to make very light of the matter; but it is no joke to me, I'll assure you; and Macleaver shall see that I am not to be affronted with impunity. Sir, I shall take it as a singular favour, if you will be the bearer of a billet to him, which I shall write in

three

three words: nay, sir, you must give me leave to insist upon it, as you are the only gentleman of our mes, whom I can intrust with an affair of this nature.'

Fathom, rather than run the risque of disobliging such a punctilious warrior, after having in vain attempted to dissuade him for his purpose, undertook to carry the challenge, which was immediately penned in these words:

' SIR,

' You have violated my honour in imposing upon Mrs. Minikin your pretended cousins, as ladies of virtue and reputation; I therefore demand such satisfaction as a soldier ought to receive, and expect you will adjust with my friend count Fathom the terms upon which you shall be met by the much injured.

' GOLIAH MINIKIN.'

This morceau being sealed and directed, was forthwith carried by our adventurer to the lodgings of the major, who had by this time retired to rest, but hearing the count's voice, he got up and opened the door in *cuerpo*, to the astonishment of Ferdinand, who had never before seen such an Herculean figure. He made an apology for receiving the count in his birth-day suit, to which he said he was reduced by the heat of his constitution, though he might have assigned a more adequate cause, by owning that his shirt was in the hands of his washer-woman; then shrouding himself in a blanket, desired to know what had procured him the honour of such an extraordinary visit. He read the letter with great composure, like a man accustomed to such intercourse; then addressing himself to the bearer, ' I will be after diverting the gentleman,' said he, ' in any manner he shall think proper; but by Jesus this is no place for such amusements; because, as you well know, my dear count, if both

‘ should be killed by the chance of war, neither of us
‘ will be able to escape; and after the breath is out of
‘ his body, he will make but a sorry excuse to his
‘ family and friends. But, that is no concern of
‘ mine, and therefore I am ready to please him in his
‘ own way.’

Fathom approved of his remarks, which he reinforced with sundry considerations to the same purpose, and begged the assistance of the major's advice, in finding some expedient to terminate the affair without bloodshed, that no troublesome consequences might ensue either to him or to his antagonist, who, in spite of this overstraining formality, seemed to be a person of worth and good-nature. ‘ With all my heart,’ said the generous Hibernian, ‘ I have a great regard
‘ for the little man, and my own character is not to
‘ seek at this time of day. I have served a long ap-
‘ prenticeship to fighting, as this same carcass can
‘ testify, and if he compels me to run him through the
‘ body, by my shoul I shall do it in a friendly mannger.’

So saying, he threw aside the blanket, and displayed scars and seams innumerable upon his body, which appeared like an old patched leathern doublet. ‘ I remember,’ proceeded this champion, ‘ when I was a slave at Algiers, Murphy Macmorris and I happened to have some difference in the bagnio; upon which he bade me turn out. Arrah for what? said I, there are no weapons that a gentleman can use, and you would not be such a negro as to box like an English carman. After he had puzzled himself for some time, he proposed that we should retire into a corner, and fumk one another with brim-stone, ’till one of us should give out. Accordingly we crammed half a dozen of tobacco-pipes with sulphur, and setting foot to foot, began to smoke, and kept a constant fire, until Macmorris dropped down; then I drew away my pipe, and taking poor Murphy in my arms, “ What, are you dead?” said I, “ if you are dead, speak.” “ No, by Jefus!” cried

cried he, " I an't dead, but I'm speechless." So he owned I had obtained the victory, and we were as good friends as ever. Now, if Mr. Minikin thinks proper to put the affair upon the same issue, I will smoke a pipe of brimstone with him to-morrow morning, and if I cry out first, I will be after asking pardon for this supposed affront.'

Fathom could not help laughing at the proposal, to which, however, he objected on account of Minikin's delicate constitution, which might suffer more detriment from breathing in an atmosphere of sulphur, than from the discharge of a pistol, or the thrust of a small sword! He therefore suggested another expedient in lieu of the sulphur, namely, the gum called *assa foetida*, which, though abundantly nauseous, could have no effect upon the infirm texture of the lieutenant's lungs. This hint being relished by the major, our adventurer returned to his principal, and having repeated the other's arguments against the use of mortal instruments, described the succedaneum which he had concerted with Macleaver. The captain at first believed the scheme was calculated for subjecting him to the ridicule of his fellow-prisoners, and began to storm with great violence; but, by the assurances and address of Fathom, he was at length reconciled to the plan, and preparations were made on each side for this duel, which was actually smoaked next day, about noon, in a small closet, detached from the challenger's apartment, and, within hearing of his majesty and all his court, assembled as witnesses and umpires of the contest.

The combatants, being locked up together, began to ply their engines with great fury, and it was not long before captain Minikin perceived he had a manifest advantage over his antagonist. For his organs were familiarized to the effluvia of this drug, which he had frequently used in the course of an hypochondriac disorder; whereas Macleaver, who was a stranger to all sorts of medicine, by his wry faces and at-

tempts to puke, expressed the utmost abhorrence of the smell that invaded his nostrils. Nevertheless, resolved to hold out to the last extremity, he continued in action until the closet was filled with such an intolerable vapour as discomposed the whole economy of his intrails, and compelled him to disgorge his breakfast in the face of his opponent, whose nerves were so disconcerted by this disagreeable and unforeseen discharge, that he fell back into his chair in a swoon, and the major bellowed aloud for assistance. The door being opened, he ran directly to the window, to inhale the fresh air, while the captain, recovering from his fit, complained of Macleaver's unfair proceedings, and demanded justice of the arbitrators, who decided in his favour; and the major being prevailed upon to ask pardon for having introduced Mrs. Minikin to women of rotten reputation, the parties were reconciled to each other, and peace and concord re-established in the mess.

Fathom acquired universal applause for his discreet and humane conduct upon this occasion; and that same afternoon had an opportunity of seeing the lady in whose cause he had exerted himself. He was presented to her as the husband's particular friend, and when she understood how much she was indebted to his care and concern for the captain's safety, she treated him with uncommon marks of distinction; and he found her a genteel well-bred woman, not without a good share of personal charms, and a well-cultivated understanding.

C H A P. XLII.

An unexpected encounter, and an happy revolution in the affairs of our adventurer.

AS she did not lodge within the precincts of this garrison, she was one day, after tea, conducted to the gate by the captain and the count, and just as they approached the turnkey's lodge, our hero's eyes were struck with the apparition of his old companion

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nion Renaldo, son of his benefactor and patron the count de Melville. What were the emotions of his soul, when he saw that young gentleman enter the prison, and advance towards him, after having spoke to the gaoler ! He never doubted that, being informed of his confinement, he was come to upbraid him with his villainy and ingratitude, and he in vain endeavoured to recollect himself from that terror and guilty confusion which his appearance had inspired ; when the stranger, lifting up his eyes, started back with signs of extreme amazement, and, after a considerable pause, exclaimed, ‘ Heaven and earth ! Sure my eyes do not deceive me ! is not your name Fathom ? It is, it must be my old friend and companion, the loss of whom I have so long regretted !’ With these words he ran towards our adventurer, and while he clasped him in his arms, with all the eagerness of affection, protested that this was one of the happiest days he had ever seen.

Ferdinand, who from this salutation concluded himself still in possession of Renaldo’s good opinion, was not deficient in expressions of tenderness and joy ; he returned his embraces with equal ardour, the tears trickled down his cheeks, and that perturbation, which proceeded from conscious perfidy and fear, was mistaken by the unsuspecting Hungarian for the sheer effects of love, gratitude, and surprize. These first transports having subsided, they adjourned to the lodgings of Fathom, who soon recollect ed his spirits and invention so well as to amuse the other with a feigned tale of his having been taken by the French, sent prisoner into Champaigne, from whence he had written many letters to count Melville and his son, of whom he could hear no tidings ; of his having contracted an intimacy with a young nobleman of France, who died in the flower of his age, after having, in token of friendship, bequeathed to him a considerable legacy ; by this he had been enabled to visit the land of his forefathers in the character of a gentleman,

tleman, which he had supported with some figure, until he was betrayed into a misfortune that exhausted his funds, and drove him to the spot where he was now found: and he solemnly declared, that, far from forgetting the obligation he owed to count Melville, or renouncing the friendship of Renaldo, he had actually resolved to set out for Germany on his return to the house of his patron in the beginning of the week, posterior to that in which he had been arrested.

Young Melville, whose own heart had never known the instigations of fraud, implicitly believed the story and protestations of Fathom; and though he would not justify that part of his conduct, by which the term of his good fortune was abridged, he could not help excusing an indiscretion into which he had been hurried by the precipitancy of youth, and the allurements of an artful woman: nay, with the utmost warmth of friendship, he undertook to wait upon Trapwell, and endeavour to soften him into some reasonable terms of composition.

Fathom seemed to be quite overwhelmed with a deep sense of all this goodness, and affected the most eager impatience to know the particulars of Renaldo's fate since their unhappy separation; more especially his errand to this uncomfortable place, which he should henceforth revere as the providential scene of their re-union: nor did he forget to enquire, in the most affectionate and dutiful manner, about the situation of his noble parents and amiable sister.

At mention of these names, Renaldo, fetching a deep sigh, 'Alas! my friend,' said he, 'the count is no more; and what aggravates my affliction for the loss of such a father, it was my misfortune to be under his displeasure at the time of his death. Had I been present on that melancholy occasion, so well I knew his generosity and paternal tenderness, that sure I am, he would in his last moments have forgiven an only son, whose life had been a continual effort to render himself worthy of such a parent.'

, parent, and whose crime was no other than an honourable passion for the most meritorious of her sex. But I was removed at a fatal distance from him, and doubtless my conduct must have been vindictively misrepresented. Be that as it will, my mother has again given her hand in wedlock to count Trebasi ; by whom I have the mortification to be informed that I am totally excluded from my father's succession ; and I learn from other quarters, that my sister is barbarously treated by this inhuman father-in-law. Grant heaven I may soon have an opportunity of expostulating with the tyrant upon that subject !'

So saying, his cheeks glowed, and his eyes lightened with resentment. Then he thus proceeded :

' My coming hither to-day, was with a view to visit a poor female relation, from whom I yesterday received a letter describing her most deplorable situation, and soliciting my assistance : but the turnkey affirms, that there is no such person in the jail ; and I was on my way to consult the keeper, when I was agreeably surprised with the sight of my dear Fathom.'

Our adventurer having wiped from his eyes the tears which were produced by the news of his worthy patron's death, desired to know the name of that afflicted prisoner in whose behalf he interested himself so much, and Renaldo produced the letter, subscribed your unfortunate cousin Helen Melville. This pretended relation, after having explained the degree of consanguinity which she and the count stood in to each other, and occasionally mentioned some anecdotes of the family in Scotland, gave him to understand, that she had married a merchant of London, who, by repeated losses in trade, had been reduced to indigence, and afterwards confined in prison, where he then lay a breathless corse, having left her in the utmost extremity of wretchedness and want, with two young children in the small-pox, and an incurable

incurable cancer in one of her own breasts. Indeed, the picture she drew was so moving, and her expressions so sensibly pathetic, that no person whose heart was not altogether callous, could peruse it without emotion. Renaldo had sent two guineas by the messenger, whom she had represented as a truly servant, whose fidelity had been proof against all the distresses of her mistress: and he was now arrived, in order to reinforce his bounty.

Fathom, in the consciousness of his own practices, immediately comprehended the scheme of this letter, and confidently assured him, that no such person resided in the prison, or in any other place: and when his friend applied for information to the keeper, these assurances were confirmed; and that stern janitor told him, he had been imposed upon by a stale trick which was often practised upon strangers, by a set of sharpers, who make it their business to pick up hints of intelligence relating to private families, upon which they build such superstructures of fraud and imposition.

However piqued the young Hungarian might be to find himself duped in this manner, he rejoiced at the occasion which had thrown Fathom in his way; and after having made him a tender of his purse, took his leave, on purpose to wait upon Trapwell, who was not quite so untractable as an enraged cuckold commonly is; for by this time he had accomplished the best part of his aim, which was to be divorced from his wife, and was fully convinced that the defendant was no more than a needy adventurer, who in all probability would be released by an act of parliament for the benefit of insolvent debtors; in which case he (the plaintiff) would reap no solid advantage from his imprisonment.

He therefore listened to the remonstrances of the mediator, and after much canvassing agreed to discharge the defendant in consideration of two hundred pounds, which were immediately paid by count Melville,

Melville, who by this deduction was reduced to somewhat less than thirty.

Nevertheless he cheerfully beggared himself in behalf of his friend, for whose release he forthwith obtained an order: and next day our adventurer having bid a formal adieu to his fellows in distress, and in particular to his majesty, for whose restoration his prayers were preferred, he quitted the jail, and accompanied his deliverer, with all the outward marks of unutterable gratitude and esteem.

Surely, if his heart had been made of penetrable stuff, it would have been touched by the circumstances of this redemption: but had not his soul been invincible to all such attacks, these memoirs would possibly never have seen the light.

When they arrived at Renaldo's lodgings, that young gentleman honoured him with other proofs of confidence and friendship, by giving him a circumstantial detail of all the adventures in which he had been engaged after Fathom's desertion from the imperial camp. He told him, that immediately after the war was finished, his father had pressed him to a very advantageous match, with which he would have complied, though his heart was not at all concerned, had not he been inflamed with the desire of seeing the world before he could take any step towards a settlement for life: that he had signified his sentiments on this head to the count, who opposed them with unusual obstinacy, as productive of a delay which might be fatal to his proposal: for which reason he had retired *incognito* from his family, and travelled through sundry states and countries in a disguise by which he eluded the inquiries of his parents.

That in the course of these peregrinations he was captivated by the irresistible charms of a young lady, on whose heart he had the good fortune to make a tender impression: that their mutual love had subjected both to many dangers and difficulties, during which they suffered a cruel separation; after the tor-

ments of which, he had happily found her in England, where she now lived entirely cut off from her native country and connexions, and destitute of every other resource but his honour, love and protection : and finally, that he was determined to combat his own desires, how violent soever they might be, until he should have made some suitable provision for the consequences of a stricter union with the mistress of his soul, that he might not, by a precipitate marriage, ruin the person whom he adored.

This end he proposed to attain, by an application to the court of Vienna, which, he did not doubt, would have some regard to his own service and that of his father ; and thither he resolved to repair with the first opportunity, now that he had found a friend with whom he could intrust the inestimable jewel of his heart.

He likewise gave our hero to understand, that he had been eight months in England, during which he had lived in a frugal manner, that he might not unnecessarily exhaust the money he had been able to raise upon his own credit ; that hitherto he had been obliged to defer his departure for Germany, on account of his attendance upon the mother of his mistress, who was lately dead of sorrow and chagrin ; and that since he resided in London, he had often heard of the celebrated count Fathom, though he never imagined that his friend Ferdinand could be distinguished by that appellation.

C H A P. XLIII.

Fathom justifies the proverb, ‘ What’s bred in the bone will never come out of the flesh.’

SOME circumstances of this conversation made a deep impression upon the mind of our adventurer, who nevertheless concealed his emotions from the knowledge of his friend, and was next day introduced to that hidden treasure of which Renaldo had spoken

spoken with such rapture and adoration. It was not without reason he had expatiated upon the personal attractions of this young lady, whom (for the present) we shall call Monimia, a name that implies her orphan situation. When she entered the room, even Fathom, whose eyes had been sated with beauty, was struck dumb with admiration, and could scarce recollect himself so far as to perform the ceremony of his introduction.

She seemed to be about the age of eighteen : her stature was tall ; her motion graceful ; a knot of artificial flowers restrained the luxuriancy of her fine black hair that flowed in shining ringlets a-down her snowy neck. The contour of her face was oval ; her forehead remarkably high ; her complexion clean and delicate, though not florid ; and her eyes were so piercing as to strike the soul of every beholder : yet, upon this occasion, one half of their vivacity was eclipsed by a languishing air of melancholy concern ; which, while it in a manner sheathed the edge of her beauty, added a most engaging sweetness to her looks : in short, every feature was elegantly perfect ; and the harmony of the whole ravishing and delightful.

It was easy to perceive the mutual sentiments of the two lovers, at meeting, by the pleasure that sensibly diffused itself in the countenances of both. Fathom was received by her as the intimate friend of her admirer, whom she had often heard of in terms of the most sincere affection ; and the conversation was carried on in the Italian language, because she was a foreigner, who had not as yet made a great proficiency in the knowledge of the English tongue. Her understanding was such as, instead of diminishing, reinforced the prepossession which was inspired by her appearance ; and if the sum total of her charms could not melt the heart, it at least excited the appetite of Fathom to such a degree, that he gazed upon her with such violence of desire as had never transported

ported him before; and instantly began to harbour thoughts, not only destructive to the peace of his generous patron, but also to the prudential maxims he had adopted on his first entrance into life.

We have already recorded divers instances of his conduct, to prove that there was an intemperance in his blood, which often interfered with his caution: and although he had found means to render this heat somewhat subservient to his interest; yet, in all probability, heaven mingled the ingredient in his constitution, on purpose to counteract his consummate craft, defeat the villany of his intention, and at last expose him to the justice of the law, and the contempt of his fellow-creatures.

Stimulated as he was by the beauty of the incomparable Monimia, he forefaw that the conquest of her heart would cost him a thousand times more labour and address than all the victories he had ever achieved: for, besides her superior understanding, her sentiments of honour, virtue, gratitude, religion, and pride of birth, her heart was already engaged by the tenderest ties of love and obligation, to a man whose person and acquired accomplishments at least equalled his own; and whose connexion with him was of such a nature, as raised an almost insurmountable bar to his design: because with what face could he commence rival to the person whose family had raised him from want and servility, and whose own generosity had rescued him from the miseries of a dreary jail?

Notwithstanding these reflections, he would not lay aside an idea which so agreeably flattered his imagination. He, like every other projector in the same circumstances, was so partial to his own qualifications, as to think the lady would soon perceive a difference between him and Renaldo, that could not fail to turn to his advantage in her opinion. He depended a good deal on the levity and inconstancy of the sex; and did not doubt, that in the course of their acquaintance,

acquaintance he should profit by that languor which often creeps upon and flattens the intercourse of lovers cloyed with the sight and conversation of each other.

This way of arguing was very natural to a man who had never known other motives than those of sensuality and convenience; and perhaps, upon these maxims, he might have succeeded with nine-tenths of the fair sex: but for once he erred in his calculation. Monimia's soul was perfect; her virtue impregnable. His first approaches were, as usual, performed by the method of insinuation, which succeeded so well, that in a few days he actually acquired a very distinguished share of her favour and esteem: to this he had been recommended in the warmest strain of exaggerating friendship by her dear Renaldo; so that placing the most unreserved confidence in his honour and integrity, and being almost quite destitute of acquaintance, she made no scruple of owning herself pleased with his company and conversation; and therefore he was never abridged in point of opportunity. She had too much discernment to overlook his uncommon talents and agreeable address, and too much susceptibility to observe them with indifference. She not only regarded him as the confidant of her lover, but admired him as a person whose attachment did honour to count Melville's choice: she found his discourse remarkably entertaining, his politeness dignified with an air of uncommon sincerity; and she was ravished with his skill in music; an art of which she was deeply enamoured.

While he thus ingratiated himself with the fair Monimia, Renaldo, rejoiced at their intimacy, being extremely happy in the thought of having found a friend who could amuse and protect the dear creature in his absence. That she might be the better prepared for the temporary separation which he meditated, he began to be less frequent in his visits, or rather

rather to interrupt, by gradual intermissions, the constant attendance he had bestowed upon her since her mother's death. This alteration she was enabled to bear by the assiduities of Fathom, when she understood that her lover was indispensably employed in negotiating a sum of money for the purposes of his intended voyage. This was really the case: for as the reader hath been already informed, the provision he had made for that emergency was expended in behalf of our adventurer; and the persons of whom he had borrowed it, far from approving of the use to which it was put, and accommodating him with a fresh supply, reproached him with his benevolence as an act of dishonesty to them; and, instead of favouring this second application, threatened to distress him for what he had already received. While he endeavoured to surmount these difficulties, his small reversion was quite exhausted, and he saw himself on the brink of wanting the common necessaries of life.

There was no difficulty which he could not have encountered with fortitude, had he alone been concerned: but his affection and regard for Monimia were of such a delicate nature, that, far from being able to bear the prospect of her wanting the least convenience, he could not endure that she should suspect her situation cost him a moment's perplexity; because he foresaw it would wring her gentle heart with unspeakable anguish and vexation. This therefore he endeavoured to anticipate by expressions of confidence in the emperor's equity, and frequent declarations touching the goodness and security of that credit from which he derived his present subsistence.

C H A P. XLIV.

Anecdotes of poverty, and experiments for the benefit of those whom it may concern.

HIS affairs being thus circumstanced, it is not to be supposed that he passed his time in tranquility. Every day ushered in new demands and fresh anxiety : for, though his œconomy was frugal, it could not be supported without money ; and now not only his funds were drained, but also his private friends tired of relieving his domestic necessities : nay, they began to relinquish his company, which formerly they had coveted ; and those who still favoured him with their company, embittered that favour with disagreeable advice, mingled with impudent reproof. They loudly exclaimed against the last instance of his friendship for Fathom as a piece of wrong-headed extravagance, which neither his fortune could afford, nor his conscience excuse ; and alledged, that such specimens of generosity are vicious in any man, let his finances be never so opulent, if he has any relations of his own who need his assistance ; but altogether scandalous, not to say unjust, in a person who depends for his own support upon the favour of his friends.

These expostulations did not even respect the beauteous, the accomplished, the gentle hearted, the orphan Monimia. Although they owned her perfections, and did not deny that it would be highly meritorious in any man of fortune to make her happy, they disapproved of Renaldo's attachment to the fair beggar ; made light of that intimate union of hearts which subsisted between the two lovers, and which no human consideration could dissolve ; and some among them, in the consummation of their prudence, ventured to hint a proposal of providing for her in the service of some lady of fashion.

Any reader of sensibility will easily conceive how these

these admonitions were relished by a young gentleman whose pride was indomitable, whose notions of honour were scrupulously rigid and romantic, whose temper was warm, and whose love was intense. Every such suggestion was as a dagger to his soul; and what rendered the torture more exquisite, he lay under obligations to those very persons, whose selfish and sordid sentiments he despised: so that he was restricted by gratitude from giving vent to his indignation; and his forlorn circumstances would not permit him to renounce their acquaintance. While he struggled with these mortifications, his wants grew more importunate, and his creditors became clamorous.

Fathom, to whom all his grievances were disclosed, lamented his hard hap with all the demonstrations of sympathy which he could expect to find in such a zealous adherent; he upbraided himself incessantly as the cause of his patron's distress; took God to witness, that he would rather have perished in jail, than have enjoyed his liberty, had he known it would have cost his dearest friend and benefactor one tenth part of the anguish he now saw him suffer; and in conclusion, the fervency of his affection glowed to such a degree, that he offered to beg, steal, or plunder on the highway, for Renaldo's assistance.

Certain it is, he might have recollect'd a less disagreeable expedient than any of these, to alleviate the pangs of this unhappy lover: for, at that very period, he was possessed of money and moveables to the amount of a much greater sum than that which was necessary to remove the severest pangs of the count's misfortune. But, whether he did not reflect upon this resource, or was willing to let Melville be better acquainted with adversity, which is the great school of life, I shall leave the reader to determine; yet, so far was he from supplying the wants of the young Hungarian, that he did not scruple to receive a share of the miserable pittance which that gentleman made shift

shift to extort from the complaisance of a few companions, whose countenance he still enjoyed.

Renaldo's life was now become a sacrifice to the most poignant distress: almost his whole time was engrossed by a double scheme comprehending his efforts to render his departure practicable, and his expedients for raising the means of daily bread. With regard to the first, he exerted himself among a set of merchants, some of whom knew his family and expectations; and, for the last, he was fain to depend upon the assistance of a few intimates, who were not in condition to furnish him with sums of consequence. These, however, gradually dropped off, on pretence of friendly resentment for his indiscreet conduct; so that he found himself naked and deserted by all his former companions except one gentleman, with whom he had lived in the most unreserved correspondence, as with a person of the warmest friendship, and the most unbounded benevolence: nay, he had actually experienced repeated proofs of his generosity; and such were the count's sentiments of the gratitude, love and esteem which were due to the author of these obligations, that he would have willingly laid down his own life for his interest or advantage. He had already been at different times accommodated by this benefactor with occasional supplies, amounting in the whole to about forty or fifty pounds; and so fearful was he of taking any step by which he might forfeit the good-will of this gentleman, that he struggled with unparalleled difficulty and vexation, before he could prevail upon himself to put his liberality to another proof.

What maxims of delicacy will not the dire calls of necessity infringe! reduced to the alternative of applying once more to that beneficence which had never failed him, or of seeing Monimia starve, he chose the first, as of two evils the least, and intrusted Fathom with a letter explaining the bitterness of his case. It was not without trepidation that he received in the

evening, from his messenger, an answer to this billet: but what were his pangs when he learned the contents? The gentleman, after having professed himself Melville's sincere well-wisher, gave him to understand that he was resolved for the future to detach himself from every correspondence which would be inconvenient for him to maintain; that he considered his intimacy with the count in that light: yet, nevertheless, if his distress was really as great as he had described it, he would still contribute something towards his relief; and accordingly had sent by the bearer five guineas for that purpose: but desired him to take notice, that, in so doing, he laid himself under some difficulty.

Renaldo's grief and mortification at this disappointment were unspeakable: he now saw demolished the last screen betwixt him and the extremity of indigence and woe; he beheld the mistress of his soul abandoned to the bleakest scenes of poverty and want; and he deeply resented the lofty strain of the letter, by which he conceived himself treated as a worthless spendthrift, and importunate beggar. Though his purse was exhausted to the last shilling; though he was surrounded with necessities and demands, and knew not how to provide another meal for his fair dependant, he, in opposition to all the suggestions of Fathom, dispatched him with the money and another billet, intimating in the most respectful terms, that he approved of his friend's new adopted maxim, which, for the future, he should always take care to remember; and that he had sent back the last instance of his bounty, as a proof how little he was disposed to incommodate his benefactor.

This letter, though sincerely meant, and written in a very serious mood, the gentleman considered as an ungrateful piece of irony, and in that opinion complained to several persons of the count's acquaintance, who unanimously exclaimed against him, as a sordid, unthankful and profligate knave, that abused and reviled

viled those very people who had generously befriended him, whenever they found it inconvenient to nourish his extravagance with further supplies. Notwithstanding these accumulated oppressions, he still persevered with fortitude in his endeavours to disentangle himself from this maze of misery. To these he was encouraged by a letter which about this time he received from his sister, importuning, that she had good reason to believe the real will of her father had been suppressed for certain sinister views; and desiring him to hasten his departure for Hungary, where he would still find some friends who were both able and willing to support his cause. He had some trinkets left; the pawn-broker's shop was still open; and hitherto he made shift to conceal from Monimia the extent of his affliction.

The money-broker whom he employed, after having amused him with a variety of schemes, which served no other purpose than that of protracting his own job, at length undertook to make him acquainted with a set of monied men who had been very adventurous in lending sums upon personal security; he was therefore introduced to their club, in the most favourable manner, after the broker had endeavoured to prepossess them separately, with magnificent ideas of his family and fortune. By means of this anticipation, he was received with a manifest relaxation of that severity, which people of this class mingle in their aspects to the world in general; and they even vied with each other in their demonstrations of hospitality and respect; for every one in particular looked upon him as a young heir, who would bleed freely, and mortgage at cent. per cent.

Renaldo, buoyed up with these exterior civilities, began to flatter himself with hopes of success, which, however, were soon checked by the nature of the conversation: during which the chairman upbraided one of the members in open club, for having once lent forty pounds upon slight security: the person

accused alledged in his own defence, that the borrower was his own kinsman, whose funds he knew to be sufficient; that he had granted his bond, and been at the expence of insuring his life for the money; and, in conclusion, had discharged it to the day with great punctuality. These allegations were not deemed exculpatory by the rest of the assembly, who with one voice pronounced him guilty of* unwarrantable rashness and indiscretion, which, in time coming, must undoubtedly operate to the prejudice of his character and credit.

This was a bitter declaration to the young count who, nevertheless, endeavoured to improve the footing he had gained among them, by courting their company, conforming to their manners, and attentively listening to their discourse. When he had cultivated them with great assiduity, for the space of some weeks, dined at their houses upon pressing invitations, and received repeated offers of service and friendship, believing that things were now ripe for the purpose, he one day, at a tavern to which he had invited him to dinner, ventured to disclose his situation to him whose countenance was the least unpromising; and as he introduced the business with a proposal of borrowing money, he perceived his eyes sparkle with a visible alacrity, from which he drew an happy presage. But, alas! this was no more than a transient gleam of sunshine, which was suddenly obumbrated by the sequel of his explanation; inasmuch, that, when the merchant understood the nature of the security, his visage was involved in a most disagreeable gloom, and his eyes distorted into a most hideous obliquity of vision. Indeed, he squinted so horribly, that Renaldo was amazed and almost affrighted at his looks, until he perceived that this distortion proceeded from concern for a silver tobacco-box which he had laid down by him on the table, after having filled his pipe: as the youth proceeded to unfold his necessities, the other became gradually

gradually alarmed for this utensil, to which he darted his eyes askance in this preternatural direction, until he had slyly secured it in his pocket.

Having made this successful conveyance, he shifted his eyes alternately from the young gentleman to the broker, for a considerable pause, during which he in silence reproached the last for introducing such a beggarly varlet to his acquaintance; then taking the pipe from his mouth, ‘Sir, (said he, addressing himself to the count) if I had all the inclination in the world to comply with your proposal, it is really not in my power: my correspondents abroad have remitted such a number of bad bills of late, that all my running cash hath been exhausted in supporting their credit. Mr. Ferret, sure I am, you was not ignorant of my situation; and I’m not a little surprised, that you should bring the gentleman to me, on business of this kind: but, as the wise man observes, bray a fool in a mortar, and he’ll never be wise.’ So saying, with a most emphatic glance directed to the broker, he rung the bell, and called for the reckoning; when, finding that he was to be the guest of Renaldo, he thanked him drily for his good cheer, and in an abrupt manner took himself away.

Though baffled in this quarter, the young gentleman would not despair; but forthwith employed Mr. Ferret in an application to another of the society; who, after having heard the terms of his commission, desired him to tell his principal, that he could do nothing, without the concurrence of his partner, who happened to be at that time in one of our American plantations: a third being solicited, excused himself on account of an oath which he had lately taken, on the back of a considerable loss: a fourth being tried, made answer, that it was not in his way: and a fifth candidly owned, that he never lent money without proper security.

Thus the forlorn Renaldo tried every experiment without success, and now saw the last ray of hope extinguished. Well nigh destitute of present support, and encompassed with unrelenting duns, he was obliged to keep within doors, and seek some comfort in the conversation of his charming mistress, and his faithful friend : yet, even there, he experienced the extremest rigour of adverse fate. Every rap at the door alarmed him with the expectation of some noisy tradesman demanding payment, when he endeavoured to amuse himself with drawing, some unlucky feature of the occasional portrait, recalled the image of an obdurate creditor, and made him tremble at the work of his own hands. When he fled for shelter to the flattering creation of fancy, some abhorred idea always started up amidst the gay vision, and dissolved the pleasing enchantment. Even the seraphic voice of Monimia had no longer power to compose the anxious tumults of his mind : every song she warbled, every tune she played, recalled to his remembrance some scene of love and happiness elapsed ; and overwhelmed his soul with the woful comparison of past and present fate. He saw all that was amiable and perfect in woman, all that he held most dear and sacred upon earth, tottering on the brink of misery, without knowing the danger of her situation, and found himself unable to prevent her fall, or even to forewarn her of the peril : for, as we have already observed, his soul could not brook the thought of communicating the tidings of distress to the tender-hearted Monimia.

C H A P. XLV.

Renaldo's distress deepens, and Fathom's plot thickens.

SUCH aggravated misfortune could not fail to affect his temper and deportment : the continual efforts he made to conceal his vexation produced a manifest distraction in his behaviour and discourse.

He

He began to be seized with horror at the sight of poor Monimia, whom he therefore shunned as much as the circumstances of their correspondence would allow; and every evening he went forth alone to some solitary place, where he could unperceived give a loose to the transports of his sorrow, and in silence meditate some means to lighten the burden of his woe. His heart was sometimes so savaged with despair, which represented mankind as his inveterate enemies, that he entertained thoughts of denouncing war against the whole community, and supplying his own wants with the spoils he should win: at other times, he was tempted with the desire of putting an end to his miseries and life together: yet these were but the transitory suggestions of temporary madness, that soon yielded to the dictates of reason. From the execution of the first, he was restrained by his own notions of honour and morality; and from using the other expedient, he was deterred by his love for Monimia, together with the motives of philosophy and religion.

While in this manner he secretly nursed the worm of grief that preyed upon his vitals, the alteration in his countenance and conduct did not escape the eyes of that discerning young lady. She was alarmed at the change, yet afraid to inquire into the source of it; for, being ignorant of his distress, she could impute it to no cause in which her happiness was not deeply interested. She had observed his strained complaisance, and extraordinary emotion: she had detected him in repeated attempts to avoid her company, and taken notice of his regular excursions in the dark. These were alarming symptoms to a lover of her delicacy and pride; she strove in vain to put the most favourable construction on what she saw; and finally, imputed the effects of his despondence to the alienation of the heart. Made miserable beyond expression by these suspicions, she imparted them to

Fathom, who by this time was in full possession of her confidence and esteem, and implored his advice touching her conduct in such a nice conjuncture.

This artful politician, who rejoiced at the effect of her penetration, no sooner heard himself questioned on the subject, than he gave tokens of surprize and confusion, signifying his concern to find she had discovered what (for the honour of his friend) he wished had never come to light. His behaviour on this occasion confirmed her fatal conjecture; and she conjured him in the most pathetic manner, to tell her if he thought Renaldo's heart had contracted any new engagement. At this question, he started with signs of extreme agitation, and stifling an artificial sigh, "Sure, madam, said he, you cannot doubt the count's constancy—I am confident—he is certainly—I protest, madam, I am so shocked—

Here he made a full pause, as if the conflict between his integrity and his friendship would not allow him to proceed, and summoned the moisture into either eye.—"Then are my doubts removed," cried the afflicted Monimia: I see your candour in the midst of your attachment to Renaldo; and will no longer torment you with impertinent interrogations and vain complaints." With these words, a flood of tears gushed from her enchanting eyes, and she instantly withdrew into her own apartment, where she indulged her sorrow to excess. Nor was her grief unanimated with resentment. She was by birth, nature and education, inspired with that dignity of pride which ennobles the human heart; and this, by the circumstance of her present dependence, was rendered extremely jealous and susceptible: insomuch that she could not brook the least shadow of indifference, much less an injury of such a nature, from the man whom she had honoured with her affections, and for whom she had disengaged and deserted her family and friends.

Though

Though her love was so unalterably fixed on this unhappy youth, that, without the continuation of reciprocal regard, her life would have become an unsupportable burden, even amidst all the splendor of affluence and pomp ; and although she foresaw, that when his protection should cease, she must be left a wretched orphan in a foreign land, exposed to all the miseries of want : yet, such was the loftiness of her displeasure, that she disdained to complain, or even demand an explanation from the supposed author of her wrongs.

While she continued undetermined in her purpose, and fluctuating on this sea of torture, Fathom, believing that now was the season for working upon her passions, while they were all in commotion, became, if possible, more assiduous than ever about the fair mourner, modelled his features into a melancholy cast, pretended to share her distress with the most emphatic sympathy, and endeavoured to keep her resentment glowing by cunning insinuations, which, though apparently designed to apologize for his friend, served only to aggravate the guilt of his perfidy and dishonour. This pretext of friendly concern, is the most effectual vehicle for the conveyance of malice and slander ; and a man's reputation is never so mortally stabbed, as when the assassin begins with the preamble of, ‘ For my own part, I can safely say, that no man upon earth has a greater regard for him than I have ; and it is with the utmost anguish and concern that I see him misbehave in such a manner.’ Then he proceeds to mangle his character, and the good-natured hearers concluding he is even blacker than he is represented, on the supposition that the most atrocious circumstances are softened or suppressed by the tenderness or friendship of the accuser, exclaim, ‘ Good lack ! what a wretch he must be, when his best friends will no longer attempt to defend him ! Nay, sometimes these well-wishers undertake

his defence, and treacherously betray the cause they have espoused, by omitting the reasons that may be urged in his vindication.

Both these methods were practised by the wily Ferdinand, according to the predominant passion of Monimia : when her indignation prevailed, he expatiated upon his love and sincere regard for Renaldo, which, he said, had grown up from the cradle, to such a degree of fervour, that he would willingly part with life for his advantage. He shed tears for his apostacy ; but every drop made an indelible stain upon his character ; and, in the bitterness of his grief, swore, notwithstanding his fondness for Renaldo, which had become a part of his constitution, that the young Hungarian deserved the most infamous destiny, for having injured such perfection. At other times, when he found her melted into silent sorrow, he affected to excuse the conduct of his friend. He informed her, that the young gentleman's temper had been uneven from his infancy ; that frailty was natural to man ; that he might in time be reclaimed by self-conviction ; he even hinted, that she might have probably ascribed to inconstancy, what was really the effect of some chagrin which he industriously concealed from his participation : but, when he found her disposed to listen to this last suggestion, he destroyed the force of it, by recollecting the circumstances of his nocturnal rambles, which, he owned, would admit of no favourable construction.

By these means he blew the coals of her jealousy, and enhanced the value of his own character, at the same time ; for she looked upon him as a mirror of faith and integrity, and the mind being overcharged with woe, naturally seeks some confidant, upon whose sympathy it can repose itself : indeed, his great aim was, to make himself necessary to her affliction, and settle a gossiping correspondence, in the familiarity of which

which he hoped his purpose would certainly be answered.

Yet the exertion of these talents was not limited to her alone. While he laid these trains for the hapless young lady, he was preparing snares of another kind for her unsuspecting lover, who (for the completion of his misery) about this time began to perceive marks of disquiet and displeasure in the countenance and deportment of his adored Monimia : for that young lady, in the midst of her grief, remembered her origin, and over her vexation affected to throw a veil of tranquillity, which served only to give an air of disgust to her internal disturbance.

Renaldo, whose patience and philosophy were barely sufficient to bear the load of his other evils, would have been quite overwhelmed with the additional burthen of Monimia's woe, if it had not assumed this appearance of difesteem, which, as he knew he had not deserved it, brought his resentment to his assistance : yet this was but a wretched cordial to support him against the baleful reflections that assaulted him from every quarter ; it operated like those desperate remedies, which, while they stimulate exhausted nature, help to destroy the very fundamentals of the constitution. He reviewed his own conduct with the utmost severity, and could not recollect one circumstance which could justly offend the idol of his soul. The more blameless he appeared to himself in this examination, the less excusable did her behaviour appear : he tasked his penetration to discover the cause of this alteration ; he burned with impatience to know it ; his discernment failed him, and he was afraid (though he knew not why) to demand an explanation. His thoughts were so circumstanced, that he durst not even unbosom himself to Fathom, though his own virtue and friendship resisted those sentiments that began to intrude upon his mind, with suggestions to the prejudice of our adventurer's fidelity.

Nevertheless, unable to endure the torments of such interesting suspense, he at length made an effort to expostulate with the fair orphan; and in an abrupt address, the effect of his fear and confusion, begged to know if he had inadvertently done any thing to incur her displeasure. Monimia hearing herself bluntly accosted in this unusual strain, after repeated instances of his reserve and supposed inconstancy, considered the question as a fresh insult, and summoning her whole pride to her assistance, replied, with affected tranquility, or rather with an air of scorn, that she had no title to judge, neither did she pretend to condemn his conduct. This answer, so wide of that tenderness and concern which had hitherto manifested itself in the disposition of his amiable mistress, deprived him of all power to carry on the conversation, and he retired with a low bow, fully convinced of his having irretrievably lost the place he had possessed in her affection; for, to his imagination, warped and blinded by his misfortunes, her demeanor seemed fraught, not with a transient gleam of anger, which a respectful lover would soon have appeased, but with that contempt and indifference which denote a total absence of affection and esteem. She, on the other hand, misconstrued his sudden retreat; and now they beheld the actions of each other through the false medium of prejudice and resentment. To such fatal misunderstandings, the peace and happiness of whole families often fall a sacrifice.

C H A P. XLVI.

Our adventurer becomes absolute in his power over the passions of his friend; and effects one half of his aim.

I Nfluenced by this dire mistake, the breasts of those unhappy lovers began to be invaded with the horrors of jealousy: the tender-hearted Monimia endeavoured to devour her griefs in silence; she in secret bemoaned her forlorn fate without ceasing; her

her tears flowed without intermission from night to morn, and from morn to night : she sought not to know the object for which she was forsaken ; she meant not to upbraid her undoer ; her aim was to find a sequestered corner, in which she could indulge her sorrow ; where she could brood over the melancholy remembrance of her former felicity, where she could recollect those happy scenes she had enjoyed under the wings of her indulgent parents, when her whole life was a revolution of pleasures, and she was surrounded with affluence, pomp and admiration ; where she could, unmolested, dwell upon the wretched comparison between her past and present condition, and paint every circumstance of her misery in the most aggravating colours, that they might make the deeper impression upon her mind, and the more speedily contribute to that dissolution for which she ardently wished, as a total release from woe.

Amidst these pinings she began to loath all sustenance ; her cheeks grew wan, her bright eyes lost their splendor, the roses vanished from her lips, and her delicate limbs could hardly support their burthen ; in a word, her sole consolation was limited to the prospect of depositing her sorrows in the grave ; and her only wish was to procure a retreat in which she might wait with resignation for that happy period. Yet this melancholy comfort she could not obtain without the advice and mediation of Fathom, whom she therefore still continued to see and consult. While these consultations were held, Renaldo's bosom was ravaged with tempests of rage and distraction. He believed himself superseded in the affection of his mistress by some favoured rival, whose success rankled at his soul ; and though he scarce durst communicate the suspicion to his own heart, his observation continually whispered to him, that he was supplanted by his friend Fathom ; for Monimia was totally detached

tached from the conversation of every other man, and he had of late noted their intercourse with distempered eyes.

These considerations sometimes transported him to such a degree of frenzy, that he was tempted to sacrifice them both as traitors to gratitude, friendship, and love; but such deliriums soon vanished before his honour and humanity. He would not allow himself to think amiss of Ferdinand, until some undoubted mark of his guilt should appear; and this was so far from being the case, that hitherto there was scarce a presumption. On the contrary (said he to himself) I am hourly receiving proofs of his sympathy and attachment: not but that he may be the innocent cause of my mishap. His superior qualifications may have attracted the eye, and engaged the heart of that inconstant fair, without his being sensible of the victory he has won; or, perhaps, shocked at the conquest he hath unwillingly made, he discourages her advances, tries to reason down her unjustifiable passion, and in the mean time conceals from me the particulars, out of regard to my happiness and quiet.

Under cover of these favourable conjectures, our adventurer securely prosecuted his scheme upon the unfortunate Monimia. He dedicated himself wholly to her service and conversation, except at those times when his company was requested by Renaldo, who now very seldom exacted his attendance: in his ministry about the person of the beauteous orphan, this cunning incendiary mingled such awful regard, such melting compassion, as effectually screened him from the suspicion of treachery, while he widened the fatal breach between her and her lover, by the most diabolical insinuations. He represented his friend as a voluptuary, who gratified his own appetite without the least regard to honour or conscience; and with a shew of infinite reluctance imparted some anecdotes of his sensuality, which he had feigned for the purpose; then he would exclaim in an affected transport,

‘ Gracious

' Gracious heaven ! is it possible for any man who has the least title to perception or humanity to injure such innocence and perfection ! for my own part, had I been so undeservedly happy—Heaven and earth ! Forgive my transports, madam ; I cannot help seeing and admiring such divine attractions. I cannot help resenting your wrongs ; it is the cause of virtue I espouse ; it ought to be the cause of every honest man.'

He had often repeated such apostrophes as these, which she ascribed to nothing else than sheer benevolence and virtuous indignation, and actually began to think he had made some impression upon her heart ; not that he now entertained the hope of an immediate triumph over her chastity. The more he contemplated her character, the more difficult the conquest seemed to be ; he therefore altered his plan, and resolved to carry on his operations under the shelter of honourable proposals, foreseeing that a wife of her qualifications, if properly managed, would turn greatly to the account of the husband ; or, if her virtue should prove refractory, that he could at any time rid himself of the incumbrance, by decamping without beat of drum, after he should be cloyed with possession.

Elevated by these expectations, he one day, in the midst of a preconcerted rhapsody, importuning, that he could no longer conceal the fire that preyed upon his heart, threw himself on his knees before the lovely mourner, and imprinted a kiss on her fair hand : though he did not presume to take this liberty till after such preparation as he thought had altogether extinguished her regard for Melville, and paved the way for his own reception in room of that discarded lover ; he had so far overshot his mark, that Monimia, instead of favouring his declaration, started up and retired in silence, her cheeks glowing with shame, and her eyes gleaming with indignation.

Ferdinand no sooner recovered from the confusion

sion produced by this unexpected repulse, than he saw the necessity of coming to a speedy determination, lest the offended fair-one should appeal to Renaldo, in which case they might be mutually undeceived, to his utter shame and confusion; he therefore resolved to deprecate her anger, by humble supplications, and by protesting, that whatever tortures he might suffer by suppressing his sentiments, she should never again be offended with a declaration of his passion.

Having thus appeased the gentle Monimia, and discovered, that in spite of her resentment, his friend still kept possession of her heart, he determined to work an effectual separation, so as that the young lady, being utterly deserted by Melville, should be left altogether in his power. With this Christian intention he began to sadden his visage with a double shade of pensive melancholy, in the presence of Renaldo, to stifle a succession of involuntary sighs, to answer from the purpose, to be incoherent in his discourse, and in a word to act the part of a person wrapt up in sorrowful cogitation.

Count Melville, soon as he perceived those symptoms, very kindly enquired into the cause of them, and was not a little alarmed to hear the artful and evasive answers of Ferdinand, who without disclosing the source of his disquiet, earnestly begged leave to retire into some other corner of the world. Roused by this intreaty, the Hungarian's jealousy awoke, and with violent agitation he exclaimed; ‘ Then are my fears too true! My dear Fathom, I comprehend the meaning of your request. I know your worth and honour. I depend upon your friendship, and conjure you by all the ties of it, to free me at once from the most miserable suspense, by owning you have involuntary captivated the heart of that unhappy maiden.’

To this solemn interrogation he made no reply; but shedding a flood of tears (of which he had always a

magazine

magazine at command) he repeated his desire of withdrawing, and took God to witness, that what he proposed was solely for the quiet of his honoured patron and beloved friend. ‘Enough (cried the unfortunate Renaldo) the measure of my woes is now filled up.’ So laying, he fell backwards in a swoon, from which he was with difficulty recovered to the sensation of the most exquisite torments. During this paroxysm, our adventurer nursed him with infinite care and tenderness; he exhorted him to summon all his fortitude to his assistance; to remember his fore-fathers, and exert himself in the imitation of their virtues; to fly from those bewitching charms which had enslaved his better part, to retrieve his peace of mind, by reflecting on the inconstancy and ingratitude of woman, and amuse his imagination in the pursuit of honour and glory.

After these admonitions, he abused his ears with a forged detail of the gradual advances made to him by Monimia, and the steps he had taken to discourage her addresses, and re-establish her virtue; poisoning the mind of that credulous youth to such a degree, that in all probability he would have put a fatal period to his own existence, had not Fathom found means to allay the rage of his extasy, by the cunning arrangement of opposite considerations. He set his pride against his love, he opposed his resentment to his sorrow, and his ambition to his despair. Notwithstanding the balance of power, so settled among these antagonists, so violent were the shocks of their successive conflicts, that his bosom fared like a wretched province harassed, depopulated, and laid waste, by two fierce contending armies. From this moment, his life was nothing but an alternation of starts and reveries; he wept and raved by turns, according to the prevailing gust of passion; food became a stranger to his lips, and sleep to his eye-lids; he could not support the presence of Monimia; her absence increased the torture of his pangs; and when he

met

met her by accident, he started back with horror, like a traveller who chances to tread upon a snake.

The poor afflicted orphan, worn to a shadow with self-consuming anguish, eager to find some lowly retreat, where she could breathe out her soul in peace, and terrified at the frantic behaviour of Renaldo, communicated to Fathom her desire of removing, and begged that he would take a small picture of her father, decorated with diamonds, and convert them into money for the expence of her subsistence. This was the last pledge of her family, which she had received from her mother, who had preserved it in the midst of numberless distresses; and no other species of misery, but that which she groaned under, could have prevailed upon the daughter to part with it: but exclusive of other motives, the very image itself, by recalling to her mind the honours of her name, upbraided her with living in dependance upon a man who had treated her with such indignity and ingratitude; besides, she flattered herself with the hope that she should not long survive the loss of this testimonial.

Our adventurer, with many professions of sorrow and mortification at his own want of capacity, to prevent such an alienation, undertook to dispose of it to the best advantage, and to provide her with a cheap and retired apartment, to which he would conduct her in safety, though at the hazard of his life. In the mean time, however, he repaired to his friend Renaldo; and after having admonished him to arm his soul with patience and philosophy, declared that Monimia's guilty passion for himself, could no longer be kept within bounds: that she had conjured him, in the most pressing manner, to assist her in escaping from an house which she considered as the worst of dungeons, because she was in it daily exposed to the sight and company of a man whom she detested; and that she had bribed him to compliance with her request, not only with repeated promises of eternal love and submission, but also with the picture of her father set

with

with diamonds, which she had hitherto reserved as the last and greatest testimony of her affection and esteem.

With these words, he presented the fatal pledge to the eyes of the astonished youth, upon whom it operated like the poisonous sight of the basilisk; for, in an instant, the whole passions of his soul were in the most violent agitation. ‘ What! (cried he, in an ecstasy of rage) is she so abandoned to perfidy, so lost to shame, so damned to constancy, to gratitude and virtuous love, as to meditate the means of leaving me without decency, without remorse! To forsake me in my adversity, when my hapless fortune can no longer flatter the pride and vanity of her expectation! O woman! woman! woman! what simile shall I find to illustrate the character of the sex; but I will not have recourse to vain complaints and feeble exclamations. By heaven! she shall not escape; she shall not triumph in her levity—she shall not exult in my distress: No! I will rather sacrifice her to my just resentment, to the injured powers of love and friendship. I will avenge the avenging minister of heaven! I will mangle that fair bosom which contains so false an heart! I will tear her to pieces, and scatter those beauteous limbs, as a prey to the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air!’

Fathom, who expected this storm, far from attempting to oppose its progress, waited with patience until its first violence was overblown, then assuming an air of condolence, animated with that resolution which a friend ought to maintain on such occasions: ‘ My dear count (said he) I am not at all surprised at your emotion, because I know what an heart, susceptible as yours must feel from the apostacy of one who has reigned so long the object of your love, admiration, and esteem. Your endeavours to drive her from your thoughts, must create an agony much more severe than that which divorces the soul from the body. Nevertheless, I am so confident of your vir-

tue and your manhood, as to foresee that you will allow the frail Monimia to execute that resolution which she hath so unwisely taken, to withdraw herself from your love and protection. Believe me, my best friend and benefactor, this is a step, in consequence of which you will infallibly retrieve your peace of mind. It may cost you many bitter pangs, it may probe your wounds to the quick; but those pangs will be soothed by the gentle and salutary wing of time, and that probing will rouse you to a due sense of your own dignity and importance, which will enable you to convert your attention to objects far more worthy of your contemplation. All the hopes of happiness you had cherished in the possession of Monimia, are now irrecoverably blasted; her heart is now debased beneath your consideration; her love is, without all doubt, extinguished, and her honour irretrievably lost; insomuch, that were she to profess sorrow for her indiscretion, and implore your forgiveness, with the most solemn promises of regarding you for the future with unalterable fidelity and affection, you ought not to restore her to that place in your heart which he hath so meanly forfeited; because you could not at the same time reinstate her in the possession of that delicate esteem without which there is no harmony, no rapture, no true enjoyment in love. No, my dear Renaldo, expel the unworthy tenant from your bosom; allow her to fill up the measure of her ingratitude, by deserting her lover, friend and benefactor. Your glory demands her dismission; the world will applaud your generosity, and your own heart approve of your conduct: So disincumbered, let us exert ourselves once more in promoting your departure from this island, that you may revisit your father's house, do justice to yourself and amiable sister, and take vengeance on the author of your wrongs; then dedicate yourself to glory, in imitation of your re-

rowned

'owned ancestors, and flourish in the favour of your imperial patron.'

These remonstrances had such effect upon the Hungarian, that his face was lighted up with a transient gleam of satisfaction; he embraced Ferdinand with great ardour, calling him his pride, his Mentor, his good genius, and intreated him to gratify the inclination of that fickle creature, so far as to convey her to another lodging, without loss of time, while he would, by absenting himself, favour their retreat.

Our hero having obtained this permission, went immediately to the skirts of the town, where he had previously bespoken a small, though neat apartment, at the house of an old woman, widow of a French refugee: he had already reconnoitred the ground, by sounding his landlady, from whose poverty and complaisance he found reason to expect all sorts of freedom and opportunity for the accomplishment of his aim upon Monimia's person. The room being prepared for her reception, he returned to that disconsolate beauty, to whom he presented ten guineas, which he pretended to have raised by pledging the picture; though he himself acted as the pawn-broker on this occasion, for a very plain and obvious reason.

The fair orphan was overjoyed to find her wish so speedily accomplished: she forthwith packed up her necessaries in a trunk; and an hackney-coach was called in the dusk of the evening, in which she embarked with her baggage and conductor.

Yet she did not leave the habitation of Renaldo without regret. In the instant of parting, the idea of that unfortunate youth was associated with every well known object that presented itself to her eyes; not as an inconstant, ungenerous and perfidious swain, but as the accomplished, the virtuous, the melting lover, who had captivated her virgin heart. As Fathom led her to the door, she was met by Renaldo's dog, which had long been her favourite, and the poor animal fawning upon her as she passed, her heart was

over-

overwhelmed with such a gush of tenderness, that a flood of tears streamed down her cheeks, and she had well nigh sunk upon the floor.

Ferdinand, considering this emotion as the last tribute she would pay to Renaldo, hurried her into the coach, where she soon recover'd her composure; and in a little time he ushered her into the house of madam la Mer, by whom she was received with great cordiality, and conducted to her apartment, with which she found no other fault, but that of its being too good for one in her forlorn situation; here, while the tear of gratitude started in either eye, she thanked our adventurer for his benevolence and kind concern, assuring him, that she would not fail daily to beseech the Most High to shower down blessings upon him, as the orphan's friend and protector.

Fathom was not deficient in those expressions that were best adapted to her present turn of mind: he observed, that what he had done was in obedience to the dictates of common humanity, which would have prompted him to assist any fellow creature in distress; but that her peculiar virtue and qualifications were such as challenged the utmost exertion of his faculties in her service; he said, that surely heaven had not created such perfection in vain: that she was destined to receive as well as to communicate happiness; and that the providence which she so piously adored, would not fail, in due season, to raise her from distress and affliction, to that honour and felicity for which she was certainly ordained: in the mean time he intreated her to depend upon his service and fidelity, and the article of her board being settled, he left her to the company and consolation of her discreet hostess, who soon insinuated herself into the good opinion of her beauteous lodger.

While our hero was employed in this transaction, Renaldo sallied forth in a sort of intoxication which Fathom's admonitions had inspired; and repairing to a certain noted coffee-house, engaged at chess with an old

old French refugee, that his attention, by being otherwise employed, might not stray towards that fatal object which he ardently wished to forget. But, unluckily for him, he had scarce performed three moves of the game, when his ears were exposed to a dialogue between two young gentlemen; one of whom asked the other if he would go and see the Orphan acted at one of the theatres; observing, as a farther inducement, that the part of Monimia would be performed by a young gentlewoman who had never appeared on the stage. At mention of that name Renaldo started: for, tho' it did not properly belong to his orphan, it was the appellation by which she had been distinguished ever since her separation from her father's house; and therefore, it recalled her to his imagination in the most interesting point of view. Though he endeavoured to expel the image, by a closer application to his play, every now and then it intruded upon his fancy, and at each return made a stronger impression; so that he found himself in the situation of an unfortunate bark stranded upon some hidden rock, which, when the wind begins to blow, feels every succeeding wave more boisterous than the former, until, with irresistible fury, they surmount her decks, sweep every thing before them, and dash her all to pieces.

The refugee had observed his first emotion, which he attributed to an unforeseen advantage he himself had gained over the Hungarian: but seeing him, in the sequel, bite his lip, roll his eyes, groan, writhe his body, ejaculate incoherent curses, and neglect his game, the Huguenot concluded that he was mad; and, being seized with terror and dismay, got up and scampered off without ceremony or hesitation.

Melville, thus left to the horrors of his own thought which tortured him with the apprehension of losing Monimia for ever, could no longer combat that suggestion, but ran homewards with all the speed he could exert, in order to prevent her retreat. When he

he crossed the threshold, he was struck with such a damp of presaging fear, that he durst not in person approach her apartment, nor even, by questioning the servant, inform himself of the particulars he wanted to know : yet his suspense becoming more insupportable than his fear, he rushed from room to room in quest of that which was not to be found : and, seeing Monimia's chamber-door open, entered the deserted temple in a state of distraction, calling aloud upon her name. All was silent, solitary and woful, ‘ She is gone—(he cried, shedding a flood of tears)—she is for ever lost : and all my hopes of happiness are fled ! ’

So saying, he sunk upon that couch on which Monimia had oft repos'd, and abandoned himself to all the excess of grief and despondence. In this deplorable condition he was found by our adventurer, who gently chid him for his want of resolution, and again repelled his sorrow, by arousing his resentment against the innocent cause of his disquiet, having before-hand forged the particulars of provocation. ‘ Is it possible,’ said he, ‘ that Renaldo can still retain the least sentiment of regard for a fickle woman, by whom he has been so ungratefully forsaken and so unjustly scorned ? Is it possible he can be so disturbed by the loss of a creature who is herself lost to all virtue and decorum ? Time and reflection, my worthy friend, will cure you of that inglorious malady : and the future misconduct of that imprudent damsel will, doubtless, contribute to the recovery of your peace. Her behaviour at leaving the house where she had received so many marks of the most delicate affection, was in all respect so opposite to honour and decency, that I could scarce refrain from telling her I was shocked at her deportment, even while she loaded me with protestations of love. When a woman's heart is once depraved, she bids adieu to all restraint ;—she preserves no measures. It was not simply contempt which she expressed for Renaldo ; she seems to resent his being able

to live under her disdain ; and that resentment stoops to objects unworthy of indignation. Even your dog was not exempted from the effects of her displeasure : for, in her passage to the door, she kicked the poor animal as one of your dependants ; and in our way to the apartment I had provided for her, she entertained me with a ludicrous comment upon the manner in which you first made her acquainted with your passion. All that modesty of carriage, all that chastity of conversation, all that dignity of grief, which she knew so well how to affect, is now intirely laid aside, and when I quitted her, she seemed the most gay, giddy, and impertinent of her sex.

' Gracious powers !' exclaimed Renaldo, starting from the couch, ' am I under the delusion of a dream ; or are these things really so, as my friend has represented them ? Such a total and sudden degeneracy is amazing ! is monstrous and unnatural !—' Such, ' my dear count,' replied our hero, ' is the caprice of a female heart, fickle as the wind, uncertain as a calm at sea, fixed to no principle, but swayed by every fantastic gust of passion, or of whim. Congratulate yourself, therefore, my friend, upon your happy deliverance from such a domestic plague—upon the voluntary exile of a traitor from your bosom :—recollect the dictates of your duty, your discretion, and your glory, and think upon the honours and elevated enjoyment for which you are certainly ordained. To night let us over a cheerful bottle anticipate your success ; and to-morrow I will accompany you to the house of an usurer, who, I am informed, fears no risk, provided twenty per cent. be given, and the borrower's life injured.'

C H A P. XLVII.

The art of borrowing further explained, and an account of a strange phenomenon.

IN this manner did the artful incendiary work upon the passions of the credulous unsuspecting Hungarian, who pressed him to his breast with the most cordial expressions of friendship, calling him his guardian, his saviour, his second father, and gave himself up wholly to his advice.

Next morning, according to the plan they had laid over night, they repaired to a tavern in the neighbourhood of the person to whom our adventurer had been directed, and were fortunate enough to find him in the house, transacting a money affair with a young gentleman who treated him with his morning's whet.

That affair being negociated, he adjourned into another room with Renaldo and his companion, who were not a little surprised to see this minister of Plutus in the shape of a young sprightly beau, trimmed up in all the foppery of the fashion; for they had hitherto always associated with the idea of an usurer, old age and rusty apparel. After divers modish congees, he begged to know to what he should attribute the honour of their message; when Ferdinand, who acted the orator, told him, that his friend count Melville, having occasion for a sum of money, had been directed to a gentleman of his name, ‘and I suppose,’ added he, ‘you are the son of the person with whom the affair is to be negociated.’

‘Sir,’ said this *petit maitre*, with a smile, ‘I perceive you are surprised to see one of my profession in the appearance of a gentleman; and perhaps your wonder will not cease, when I tell you, that my education was liberal, and that I once had the honour to bear a commission in the British army. I was indeed a first lieutenant of marines, and will venture

venture to say, that no officer in the service was more delicate than myself, in observing all the punctilioes of honour. I entertained the utmost contempt for all the trading part of the nation, and suffered myself to be run through the body in a duel, rather than roll with a brother-lieutenant who was a broker's son: but, thank heaven! I have long ago conquered all those ridiculous prejudices. I soon observed, that without money there was no respect, honour, or convenience to be acquired in life; that wealth amply supplied the want of wit, merit, and pedigree, having influence and pleasure ever at command; and that the world never failed to worship the flood of affluence, without examining the dirty channels through which it commonly flowed.

At the end of the war, finding my appointments reduced to two shillings and four-pence per day, and being addicted to pleasures which I could not possibly purchase from such a fund, I sold my half-pay for two hundred pounds, which I lent upon bond to a young officer of the same regiment, on condition that he would insure his life, and restore one fourth part of the sum by way of premium. I happened to be lucky in this first essay: for the borrower, having in six weeks expended the money, made an excursion on the highway, was apprehended, tried, convicted of felony, and cut his own throat, to prevent the shame of a public execution; so that his bond was discharged by the insurers.

In short gentlemen, when I engaged in this business, I determined to carry it on with such spirit, as would either make my fortune, or entirely ruin me in a little time; and hitherto my endeavours have been tolerably successful: nor do I think my proceedings a whit more criminal or unjust, than those of other merchants, who strive to turn their money to the best account. The com-

modity I deal in is cash; and it is my business to sell it to the best advantage. A London factor sends a cargo of goods to market, and if he gets two hundred per cent. upon the sale, he is commended for his industry and address. If I sell money for one fourth part of that profit, certain persons will be so unjust, as to cry, shame upon me for taking such advantage of my neighbour's distress: not considering, that the trader took four times the same advantage of those people who bought his cargo, though his risque was not half so great as mine; and although the money I sold perhaps retrieved the borrower from the very jaws of destruction: for example, it was but yesterday I saved a worthy man from being arrested for a sum of money, for which he had bailed a friend who treacherously left him in the lurch: as he did not foresee what would happen, he had made no provision for the demand; and his sphere of life secluding him from all sorts of monied intercourse, he could not raise the cash by his credit in the usual way of borrowing; so that, without my assistance, he must have gone to jail; a disgrace which would have proved fatal to the peace of the family, and utterly ruined his reputation. Nay, that very young gentleman from whom I just now parted, will, in all probability, be indebted to me for a very genteel livelihood. He had obtained the absolute promise of being provided for, by a great man, who sits at the helm of affairs in a neighbouring kingdom; but being destitute of all other resources, he could not have equipped himself for the voyage, in order to profit by his lordship's intention, unless I had enabled him to pursue his good fortune.'

Renaldo was not a little pleased to hear this harangue, to which Fathom replied with many florid encomiums upon the usurer's good sense and humane disposition: then he explained the errand of his friend, which

which was to borrow three hundred pounds, in order to retrieve his inheritance, of which he had been defrauded in his absence.

'Sir,' said the lender, addressing himself to count Melville, 'I pretend to have acquired by experience, some skill in physiognomy; and though there are some faces so deeply disguised as to baffle all the penetration of our art, there are others, in which the heart appears with such nakedness of integrity, as at once to recommend it to our good will. I own your countenance prepossesses me in your favour; and you shall be accommodated, upon those terms from which I never deviate, provided you can find proper security, that you shall not quit the British dominions; for that, with me, is a condition *fine qua non*.'

This was a very disagreeable declaration to Renaldo, who candidly owned, that as his concerns lay upon the continent, his purpose was to leave England without delay. The usurer professed himself sorry that it was not in his power to oblige him; and, in order to prevent any farther importunity, assured them, he had laid it down as a maxim, from which he would never swerve, to avoid all dealings with the people whom (if need should be) he could not sue by the laws of this realm.

Thus the intervention of one unlucky and unforeseen circumstance blasted, in an instant, the budding hopes of Melville, who, while his visage exhibited the most sorrowful disappointment, begged to know, if there was any person of his acquaintance, who might be less scrupulous in that particular.

The young gentleman directed them to another member of his profession, and wishing them success, took his leave with great form and complaisance. This instance of politeness was however, no more than a shift to disengage himself the more easily from their intreaties: for, when the case was opened to the second usurer, he blessed himself from such customers,

and dismissed them with the most mortifying and boorish refusal. Notwithstanding these repulses, Renaldo resolved to make one desperate push; and, without allowing himself the least respite, solicited, one by one, not fewer than fifteen persons who dealt in this kind of traffic, and his proposals were rejected by each. At last, fatigued by the toil, and exasperated at the ill success of his expedition; and half mad with the recollection of his finances, which were now drained to half a crown; ‘ Since we have nothing to expect,’ cried he, ‘ from the favour of Christians, let us have recourse to the descendants of Judah. Though they lie under the general reproach of nations, as a people dead to virtue and benevolence, and wholly devoted to avarice, fraud, and extortion, the most savage of their tribe cannot treat me with more barbarity of indifference, than I have experienced among those who are the authors of their reproach.’

Although Fathom looked upon this proposal as an extravagant symptom of despair, he affected to approve the scheme, and encouraged Renaldo with the hope of succeeding in another quarter, even if this expedition should fail: for, by this time, our adventurer was half resolved to export him at his own charge, rather than he should be much longer restricted in his designs upon Monimia.

Mean while, being resolved to try the experiment upon the children of Israel, they betook themselves to the house of a rich Jew, whose wealth they considered as a proof of his rapaciousness; and, being admitted into his compting-house, they found him, in the midst of half a dozen clerks, when Renaldo, in his imagination, likened him unto a minister of darkness surrounded by his familiars, and planning schemes of misery to be executed upon the hapless sons of men. In spite of these suggestions, which were not at all mitigated by the forbidding aspect of the Hebrew, he demanded a private audience; and,

being

being ushered into another apartment, he explained his business with manifest marks of disorder and affliction. Indeed his confusion was in some measure owing to the looks of the Jew, who, in the midst of his exordium, pulled down his eye-brows, which were surprisingly black and bushy, so as, in appearance, totally to extinguish his visage, though he was all the time observing our youth from behind those almost impenetrable thickets.

Melville, having signified his request, ‘ Young gentleman,’ said the Israelite, with a most discordant voice, ‘ what in the name of goodness could induce you to come to me upon such an errand? Did you ever hear that I lent money to strangers without security?’—‘ No,’ replied Renaldo, ‘ nor did I believe I should profit by my application: but my affairs are desperate; and my proposals having been rejected by every Christian to whom they were offered, I was resolved to try my fate among the Jews, who are reckoned another species of men.’

Fathom, alarmed at this abrupt reply, which he supposed could not fail to disgust the merchant, interposed in the conversation, by making an apology for the plain dealing of his friend, who, he said, was soured and ruffled by his misfortunes: then exerting that power of eloquence which he had at command, he expostulated upon Renaldo’s claim and expectations, described the wrongs he had suffered, extolled his virtue, and drew a most pathetic picture of his distress.

The Jew listened attentively for some time; then his eye-brows began to rise and fall alternately; he coughed, sneezed, and winking hard, ‘ I’m plagued,’ said he, ‘ with a salt rheum that trickles from my eyes without intermission.’ So saying, he wiped the moisture from his face, and proceeded in these words: ‘ Sir, your story is plausible; and your friend is a good advocate; but, before I give an answer to

‘ your demand, I must beg leave to ask if you can produce undeniable evidence of your being the identical person you really assume. If you are really the Count de Melyil, you will excuse my caution: we cannot be too much on our guard against fraud; though I must own you have not the air of an impostor.’

Renaldo's eyes began to sparkle at this preliminary question; to which he replied, that he could procure the testimony of the Emperor's minister, to whom he had occasionally paid his respects since his first arrival in England.

‘ If that be the case,’ said the Jew, ‘ take the trouble to call here to-morrow morning at eight o'clock, and I will carry you in my own coach to the house of his excellency, with whom I have the honour to be acquainted; and, if he has nothing to object against your character, or pretensions, I will contribute my assistance towards your obtaining justice at the imperial court.’

The Hungarian was so much confounded at this unexpected reception, that he had not power to thank the merchant for his promised favour, but stood motionless and silent, while the streams of gratitude ran down his cheeks. This genuine emotion of the heart was of more weight with the Jew, than the eloquent acknowledgment which Ferdinand took the opportunity of making for his friend; and he was fain to dismiss them a little abruptly, in order to prevent a second discharge of that same rheum of which he had a ready complained.

Melville recollects all that had happened as a dream, which had no foundation in truth; and was all day long in a sort of delirium, produced by the alternate gusts of hope and fear that still agitated his bosom: for he was not yet without apprehension of being again disappointed by some unlucky occurrence.

He did not, however, fail to be punctual to the hour

hour of his appointment, when the Jew told him, there would be no occasion for visiting the ambassador, because Renaldo had been, the preceding day, recognised by one of the clerks who had been employed as a purveyor in the imperial army; and who, knowing his family, confirmed every thing he had alleged. ‘ After breakfast,’ continued this benevolent Israelite, ‘ I will give you an order upon my banker for five hundred pounds, that you may be enabled to appear at Vienna, as the son and representative of Count Melville; and you shall also be furnished with a letter of recommendation to a person of some influence at that court, whose friendship and countenance may be of some service to your suit: for I am now heartily engaged in your interest, in consequence of the fair and unblemished character which I find you have hitherto maintained.’

The reader must appeal to his own heart, to acquire a just idea of Renaldo’s feelings, when every article of these promises was fulfilled, and the merchant refused to take one farthing by way of premium, contenting himself with the slender security of a personal bond. He was, in truth, overwhelmed with the obligation, and certainly disposed to believe, that this benefactor was something more than human. As for Fathom, his sentiments took a different turn; and he scrupled not to impute all this kindness to some deep laid interested scheme, the scope of which he could not at present comprehend.

After the tumults of the young gentleman’s joy had subsided, and he found himself eased of that burthen-some poverty, under which he had groaned so long; his thoughts, which before were dissipated upon the various circumstances of distress, began to collect themselves in a body, and to resume their deliberations upon a subject which they had been long accustomed to consider; this was no other than the forlorn Monimia, whose idea now emerged in his bosom, being

ing disengumbered of one part of the load by which it had been depressed. He mentioned her name to Fathom, with marks of the most melting compassion, deplored her apostasy ; and, while he protested that he had divorced her for ever from his heart, expressed an inclination to see her once more, before his departure, that he might in person exhort her to penitence and reformation.

Our adventurer, who dreaded such an interview as the infallible means of his own ruin, resisted the proposal with the whole power of his elocution. He affirmed, that Renaldo's desire was a manifest proof that he still retained part of the fatal poison which that enchantress had spread within his veins, and that the sight of her, softened by his reproaches into tears and affected contrition, would dispel his resentment, disable his manhood, and blow the embers of his former passion to such a rage, as would hurry him on to a reconciliation which would debase his honour, and ruin his future peace. In a word, Ferdinand described the danger that would attend the meeting, in such emphatic terms, that the Hungarian started with horror at the picture which he drew, and in this particular conformed with the admonition of his friend.

One hundred pounds of the Jew's money was immediately appropriated for the payment of his most urgent debts ; the like sum he presented to his friend Fathom, with a solemn promise of sharing with him whatever good fortune might await him in Germany ; and tho' Monimia had forfeited all title to his regard, so ill could he bear the prospect of her distress, that he entrusted his dear companion with the half of what remained, to be expended for her use, fully resolving to screen her from the shocks and temptations of want, as the circumstances of his future fate would allow.

Fathom, far from opposing, applauded his generosity with marks of extreme wonder and admiration, assuring

assuring him, that she should be put in possession of his bounty, immediately after his departure, he being unwilling to make her acquainted with her good fortune before that period, lest finding his affairs in a fair way of being retrieved, she should be base enough to worship his returning prosperity, and, by false professions, and artful blandishments, seek to ensnare his heart anew.

C H A P. XLVIII.

Count Fathom unmasks his battery; is repulsed: and varies his operations without effect.

EVERY necessary preparation being made, Renaldo, accompanied by our adventurer, took the road to Dover, where he embarked in a packet boat for Calais, after having settled a correspondence, with his dear Ferdinand, from whom he did not part without tears. He had before solicited him to be his fellow-traveller, that he might personally enjoy the benefit of his conversation, and superior sagacity; but these intreaties he strenuously opposed, on pretence of his being determined to push his fortune in England, which he considered as his native country, and as the land in which (of all others) a man of merit has the best encouragement. Such were the reasons he alleged, for refusing to attend his benefactor, who was himself eagerly desirous of attaining a settlement in the island of Great Britain; but our hero's real motives for staying wore a very different complexion.—The reader is already informed of his aim upon the fair orphan, which, at present, was the chief spring of his conduct: he may also recollect such passages of his life, as were sufficient to deter him from re-appearing at Presburg or Vienna: but besides these reflections, he was detained by a full persuasion that Renaldo would sink under the power and influence of his antagonist, consequently be rendered incapable to provide for his friends; and that he himself, fraught with wiles and experience as he was,

could not fail to make himself at amends for what he had suffered among a people equally rich and un-thinking.

Melville having embraced our adventurer, and with a deep sigh bid him take care of the unfortunate Monimia, committed himself to the sea, and by the assistance of a favourable gale was, in four hours, safely landed on the French shore; while Fathom took post horses for London, where he arrived that same night, and next day, in the forenoon, went to visit the beauteous mourner, who had as yet received no intimation of Renaldo's departure or design. He found her in the attitude of writing a letter to her inconstant lover, the contents of which the reader will be acquainted with in due time. Her countenance, notwithstanding the veil of melancholy by which it was overcast, seemed altogether serene and composed; she was the picture of pious resignation, '*and sat like PATIENCE on a monument, smiling at grief.*' After having paid the compliment of the morning, Fathom begged pardon for having omitted to visit her during three days in which, he said, his time had been wholly engrossed in procuring a proper equipage for Count Melville, who had at last bid an eternal adieu to the island of Great Britain.

At this information the hapless Monimia fell back in her chair, and continued some minutes in a swoon; from which being recovered, 'Excuse me, Mr. Fathom (cried she, with a deep sigh) this, I hope, is the last agony I shall feel from my unhappy passion.' Then wiping the tears from her lovely eyes, she retrieved her tranquillity, and desired to know by what means Renaldo had been enabled to undertake his journey into the empire. Our hero, upon this occasion, assumed the whole merit of having promoted the interest of his friend, by giving her to understand, that he, in consequence of an unforeseen windfall, had defrayed the expence of the Count's equipment; though he observed, that it was not without reluctance

tance he saw Renaldo make wrong use of his friend-
ship.

' Altho' I was happy (proceeded this artful traitor) in being able to discharge my obligations to the house of Melville, I could not help feeling the most sensible chagrin, when I saw my assistance rendered subservient to the triumphs of the youth's baseness and infidelity; for he chose, as the companion of his travels, the abandoned woman, for whom he had forsaken the all-perfect Monimia, whose virtue and accomplishments did not preserve her sacred from his ungrateful sarcasms and unmannerly ridicule. Believe me, madam, I was so shocked at his conversation on that subject, and so much incensed at his want of delicacy, that my temper was scarce sufficient for the ceremony of parting: and now that my debt to his family is overpaid, I have solemnly renounced his correspondence.'

When she heard that, instead of betraying the least symptom of regret or compassion for her unhappy fate, the perfidious youth had exulted over her fall, and even made her a subject for his mirth, the blood revivified her faded cheeks, and resentment restored to her eyes that poignancy which sorrow had before overcome. Yet she scorned to give speech to her indignation; but, forcing a smile, ' Why should I repine,' said she, ' at the mortifications of a life which I despise, and from which, I hope heaven will speedily set me free !'

Fathom, fired by her emotion, which had recalled all the graces of her beauty, exclaimed in a rapture, ' Talk not so contemptuously of this life, which hath still a fund of happiness in store for the amiable, the divine Monimia. Though one admirer hath proved an apostate to his vows, your candour will not suffer you to condemn the whole sex. Some there are, whose bosoms glow with passion equally pure, unalterable and intense. For my own part, I have sacrificed to a rigid punctilio of honour, the dearest ideas

ideas of my heart. I beheld your unrivalled charms, and deeply felt their power : yet, while possibility of Melville's reformation remained, and while I was restraint by my niggard fortune, from making a tender worthy of your acceptance, I combated with my inclinations, and bore without repining the pangs of hopeless love. But, now that my honour is disengaged, and my fortune rendered independent, by the last will of a worthy nobleman, whose friendship I was favoured with in France, I presume to lay myself at the feet of the adorable Monimia, as the most faithful of admirers, whose happiness or misery wholly depends upon her nod. Believe me, madam, these are not the professions of idle gallantry—I speak the genuine, though imperfect, language of my heart : words even the most pathetic cannot do justice to my love. I gaze upon your beauty with ravishment ; but I contemplate the graces of your soul with such awful veneration, that I tremble while I approach you, as if my vows were addressed to some superior being."

During this declaration, which was pronounced in the most emphatic manner, Monimia was successively agitated with shame, anger and grief ; nevertheless, he summoned her whole philosophy to her aid, and with a tranquil, though determined air, begged he would not diminish the obligations he had already conferred, by disturbing with such unseasonable addresses, a poor unhappy maid, who had detached all her thoughts from earthly objects, and waited impatiently for that dissolution which alone could put a period to her misfortunes.

Fathom imagining that these were no other than the suggestions of a temporary disappointment and despondence, which it was his business to oppose with all his eloquence and art, renewed his theme with redoubled ardour, and at last became so importunate in his desires, that Monimia, provoked beyond the power of concealing her resentment, said,

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she was heartily sorry to find herself under the necessity of telling him, that, in the midst of her misfortunes, she could not help remembering what she had been. Then rising from her seat with all the dignity of displeasure, ‘Perhaps,’ added she, ‘you have forgot who was the father of the once happy Monimia.’

With these words she retired into another chamber, leaving our adventurer confounded by the repulse he had sustained. Not that he was discouraged from prosecuting his aim: on the contrary, this rebuff seemed to add fresh vigour to his operations. He now thought it high time to bring over Madam la Mer to his interest; and, to facilitate her conversion, took an opportunity of bribing her with some inconsiderable presents, after having amused her with a plausible tale of his passion for Monimia, with whom she undertook the office of his mediatrix, on the supposition that his intentions were honourable, and highly advantageous to her lodger.

She was, first of all, invested with the office of obtaining pardon for the offence he had given; and in this negotiation she succeeded so well, as to become an advocate for his suit: accordingly, she took all occasions of magnifying his praise. His agreeable person was often the subject of her discourse to the fair mourner: her admiration dwelt upon his politeness, good sense, and winning deportment: and she every day retailed little stories of his benevolence and greatness of soul. The defect in his birth she represented as a circumstance altogether foreign from the consideration of his merit; especially in a nation where such distinctions are as little respected as they will be in a future state. She mentioned several persons of note, who basked in the sun-shine of power and fortune, without having enjoyed the least hereditary assistance from their fore-fathers. One, she said, sprung from the loins of an obscure attorney, another was the grandson of a valet

de

de chambre, a third was the issue of an accomptant and a fourth the offspring of a woollen-draper: all these were the children of their own good works, and had raised themselves upon their personal virtues and address; a foundation certainly more solid and honourable, than a vague inheritance derived from ancestors, in whose deserts they could not be supposed to have bore the least share.

Monimia listened to all these arguments with great patience and affability, though she at once dived into the source from which all such insinuations flowed: she joined in the commendations of Fathom, and owned herself a particular instance of that benevolence which the old lady had so justly extolled; but, once for all, to prevent the supplication which madam la Mer was about to make, she solemnly protested, that her heart was altogether shut against any other earthly engagement; and that her thoughts were altogether employed upon her eternal salvation.

The assiduous landlady perceiving the steadiness of her disposition, thought proper to alter her method of proceeding, and, for the present suspended that theme by which she found her fair lodger disengaged. Resolved to reconcile Monimia to life, before she would again recommend Ferdinand to her love, she endeavoured to amuse her imagination, by recounting the occasional incidents of the day, hoping gradually to decoy her attention to those sublunary objects from which it had been industriously weaned: she seasoned her conversation with agreeable fallies; enlarged upon the different scenes of pleasure and diversion appertaining to this great metropolis; practised upon her palate, with the delicacies of eating; endeavoured to shake her temperance with repeated proffers and recommendations of certain cordials and restoratives, which she alledged were necessary for the recovery of her health; and pressed her to make little excursions.

excursions into the fields that skirt the town, for the benefit of air and exercise.

While this auxiliary plied the disconsolate Monimia on one hand, Fathom was not remiss on the other : he now seemed to have sacrificed his passion to her quiet ; his discourse turned upon more indifferent subjects ; he endeavoured to dispel her melancholy with arguments drawn from philosophy and religion ; on some occasions, he displayed all his fund of good humour, with a view to beguile her sorrow ; he importuned her to give him the pleasure of squiring her to some place of innocent entertainment ; and, finally, insisted upon her accepting a pecuniary reinforcement to her finances, which he knew to be in a most consumptive condition.

C H A P. XLIX.

Monimia's honour is protected by the interposition of heaven.

WITH that complacency and fortitude which were peculiar to herself, this hapless stranger resisted all those artful temptations. Her sustenance was barely such as exempted her from the guilt of being accessory to her own death ; her drink was the simple element : she encouraged no discourse but that which turned upon the concerns of her immortal part ; she never went abroad except in visits to a French chapel in the neighbourhood ; she refused the proffered assistance of our adventurer with equal obstinacy and politeness, and with pleasure saw herself wasting towards that period of mortality which was the consummation of her wish. Yet her charms, far from melting away with her constitution, seemed to triumph over the decays of nature : her shape and features still retained that harmony for which they had always been distinguished : a mixture of majesty and sweetness diffused itself in her looks, and her feebleness added to that soft and feminine grace which

which attracts the sympathy, and engages the protection of every humane beholder. The associates thus baffled in their attempt to excite her ideas of pleasure, again shifted their plan, and resolved to attack this forlorn beauty on the side of fear and mortification.

Our adventurer became less frequent in his visits, and more indifferent in his language and deportment; while madam la Mer gradually relaxed in that complacency and respect with which she had hitherto behaved towards her fair lodger. She even began to drop hints of disapprobation and reproach against this pattern of innocence and beauty, and at length grew bold enough to tell her, that her misfortunes could be attributed to nothing but her own obstinacy and pride; that she had been at great pains to disoblige the only person who was able and willing to raise her above dependance, and that if his protection should be withdrawn, she must be exposed to the utmost extremity and distress.

These insinuations, instead of producing the desired effect, inflamed the indignation of Monimia, who in a most dignified style of rebuke, chid her for her indecency and presumption, observing, that she could have no title to take such freedom with lodgers, whose punctuality and regular deportment left her no room to complain. Notwithstanding this animated reply, she underwent the most deplorable anguish, when she reflected upon the insolence of this woman, from whose barbarity she had no resource; and seeing no other possibility of redress than that of appealing to the good offices of Fathom, she conquered her reluctance so far as to complain to him of madam la Mer's incivility.

Pleased with this application, he gave her to understand, with very little ceremony or preamble, that it wholly depended upon herself, whether she should continue to be wretched, or be delivered at once from all her cares and perplexity; that, notwithstanding

withstanding the disdain with which she had treated his addresses, he was still ready to lay himself and his fortune at her feet; and that if she should again reject the disinterested proposal, the whole world and her own conscience would charge upon her herself whatever calamities she might be subjected to in the sequel. Interpreting into a favourable hesitation her silence, which was the result of wrath and amazement, he proceeded to throw himself at her feet, and utter a romantic rhapsody; in the course of which, laying aside all that restraint which he had hitherto preserved, he seized her delicate hand, and pressed it to his lips; nay, so far did he forget himself on this occasion, that he caught the fair creature in his arms, and rudely ravished a kiss from those lips which he had before contemplated with the most distant reverence of desire.

Having thus broken down the fences of decorum, and being heated with transport, he in all probability would have acted the part of young Tarquin, and violated by force that sacred shrine of honour, beauty, and unblemished truth, had not the wrath kindled by such an unexpected outrage, inspired her with strength and spirits sufficient to protect her virtue, and intimidate the ruffian who could offer violence to such perfection. She broke from his detested embrace with surprising agility, and called aloud to her landlady for assistance; but that discreet matron was resolved to hear nothing, and Fathom's appetite being whetted to a most brutal degree of eagerness, 'Madam,' said he, 'all opposition is vain: what you have refused to my intreaties, you shall yield to my power; and I am determined to force you to your own advantage.'

So saying, he sprung towards her with the most savage and impious intent, when this amiable heroine snatching up his sword, which lay upon a by-table, and unsheathing it instantaneously, presented the point to his breast, and while her eyes glanced with intolerable

rable keenness, ‘Villain,’ cried she, ‘the spirit of my father animates my bosom, and the vengeance of heaven shall not be frustrated.’ He was not so much affected by his bodily danger, as awe-struck at the manner of her address, and the appearance of her aspect, which seemed to shine with something supernatural, and actually disordered his whole faculties, in so much that he retreated without attempting to make the least reply; and she having secured the door after his departure, sat down to ponder upon this shocking event.

Words are wanting to describe the accumulated horrors that took possession of her mind, when she thus beheld all her presaging fears realized, and found herself at the mercy of two wretches, who had now pulled off the mask, after having lost all sentiments of humanity. Common affliction was an agreeable reverie to what she suffered, deprived of her parents, exiled from her friends and country, reduced to the brink of wanting the most indispensable necessaries of life, in a foreign land, where she knew not one person to whose protection she could have recourse, from the inexpressible woes that environed her: she complained to heaven that her life was protracted, for the augmentation of that misery which was already too severe to be endured; for she shuddered at the prospect of being utterly abandoned in the last stage of mortality, without one friend to close her eyes, or do the last offices of humanity to her breathless corse. These were dreadful reflections to a young lady who had been born to affluence and splendor, trained up in all the elegance of education, by nature fraught with that sensibility which refines the sentiment and taste, and so tenderly cherished by her indulgent parents, that ‘they suffered not the winds of heaven to visit her face too roughly.’

Having passed the night in such agony, she rose at day-break, and hearing the chapel bell toll for morning prayers, resolved to go to this place of worship,

in order to implore the assistance of heaven : she no sooner opened her chamber door, with this intent, than she was met by Madam la Mer, who after having professed her concern for what had happened over night, and imputed Mr. Fathom's rudeness to the spirit of intoxication, by which she had never before seen him possessed, she endeavoured to dissuade Monimia from her purpose, by observing that her health would be prejudiced by the cold morning air ; but finding her determined, she insisted upon accompanying her to chapel, on pretence of respect, though in reality, with a view to prevent the escape of her beauteous lodger. Thus attended the hapless mourner entered the place, and according to the laudable hospitality of England, which is the only country in christendom where a stranger is not made welcome to the house of God ; this amiable creature, emaciated and unfeebled as she was, must have stood in a common passage, during the whole service, had not she been perceived by a humane gentlewoman, who struck with her beauty and dignified air, and melted with sympathy, at the ineffable sorrow which was visible in her countenance, opened the pew in which she sat, and accommodated Monimia and her attendant : if she was captivated by her first appearance, she was not less affected by the deportment of her fair guest, which was the pattern of genuine devotion.

In a word, this good lady, who was a merchant's widow in opulent circumstances, was inflamed with a longing desire to know and befriend the amiable stranger, who, after service, turning about to thank her for her civility, madam Clement, with that frankness which is the result of true benevolence, told her, she was too much prepossessed in her favour to let slip this opportunity of craving her acquaintance, and of expressing her inclination to alleviate (if possible) that affliction which was manifest in her looks.

Monimia, overwhelmed with gratitude and surprise,

prize, at this unexpected address, gazed upon the lady in silence, and when she repeated her tenders of service, could make no other reply to her goodness, than by bursting into a flood of tears: this was a specious of eloquence, which did not pass unregarded by madam Clement, who, while her own eyes were bedewed with the drops of sympathy and compassion, took the lovely orphan by the hand, and led her, without further ceremony, to her own coach, that stood waiting at the door, whither they were followed by Mrs. La Mer, who was so much confounded at the adventure, that she made no objections to the proposal of the lady who handed her lodger into the carriage; but retired; with all possible dispatch, to make Fathom acquainted with this unforeseen event.

Mean while, the agitation of Monimia, at this providential deliverance, was such as had well nigh destroyed her tender frame: the blood gushed and forsook her cheeks by turns; she trembled from head to foot, notwithstanding the consolatory assurances of madam Clement; and, without being able to utter one word, was conducted to the house of that kind benefactress, where the violence of her transports overpowered her constitution, and she sunk down upon a couch in a swoon, from which she was not easily recovered. This affecting circumstance augmented the pity, and interested the curiosity of madam Clement, who concluded there was something very extraordinary in the case of the stranger, to produce these agonies; and grew impatient to hear the particulars of her story.

Monimia no sooner retrieved the use of her faculties, than looking around, and observing with what humane concern her new hostess was employed in effecting her recovery, ‘ Is this (said she) a flattering illusion of the brain? or am I really under the protection of some beneficent being, whom heaven hath inspired with generosity, to rescue an hapless stranger from the most forlorn state of misery and woe?’

"woe?" Her voice was, at all times, ravishingly sweet; and this exclamation was pronounced with such pathetic fervour, that madam Clement clasped her in her arms, and kissing her with all the eagerness of maternal affection, "Yes, (cried she) fair creature, 'heaven hath bestowed upon me an heart to compassionate, and power, I hope, to lighten the burthen of your sorrows.'

She then prevailed upon her to take some nourishment, and afterwards to recount the particulars of her fate; a task she performed with such accuracy and candour, that madam Clement, far from suspecting her sincerity, saw truth and conviction in every circumstance of her tale; and having condoled her misfortunes, entreated her to forget them, or, at least, look upon herself as one sheltered under the care and tuition of a person, whose study it would be to supply her want of natural parents. This would have been an happy vicissitude of fortune, had it not arrived too late; but such a sudden and unlooked for transition, not only disordered the faculties of poor Monimia's mind, but also overpowered the organs of her body, already fatigued and enfeebled by the distresses she had undergone; so that she was taken ill of a fever that same night, and became delirious before morning, when a physician was called to her assistance.

While this gentleman was in the house, madam Clement was visited by Fathom, who after having complained, in the most insinuating manner, that she had encouraged his wife to abandon her duty, told her a plausible story of his first acquaintance with Monimia, and his marriage at the Fleet, which, he said, he was ready to prove, by the evidence of the clergyman who joined them, and that of Mrs. la Mer, who was present at the ceremony. The good lady, although a little staggered at the genteel appearance, and engaging address of this stranger, could not prevail upon herself to believe that she had been imposed upon by her fair lodger, who, by this time, had given

too

too convincing a proof of her sincerity; nevertheless, in order to prevent any dispute that might be prejudicial to the health or recovery of Monimia, she gave him to understand, that she would not, at present, enter upon the merits of the cause, but only assure him, that the young lady was actually bereft of her senses, and in imminent danger of her life; for the truth of which assertions she would appeal to his own observation, and the opinion of the physician, who was then employed in writing a prescription for the cure of her disease.

So saying, she conducted him into the chamber, where he beheld the hapless virgin stretched upon a sick bed, panting under the violence of a distemper too mighty for her weakly frame, her hair dishevelled, and discomposure in her looks; all the roses of her youth were faded, yet all the graces of her beauty were not fled: she retained that sweetness and symmetry, which death itself would not destroy; and though her discourse was incoherent, her voice was still musical, resembling those feathered songsters who warble their native wood-notes wild.'

Fathom, as upon all other occasions, so on this, did behave like an inimitable actor; he ran to the bedside, with all the trepidation of a distracted lover; he fell upon his knees, and while the tears rolled down his cheeks, imprinted a thousand kisses on the soft hand of Monimia, who regarding him with a lack lustre, and undistinguishing eye, 'Alas! Renaldo, (said she) we were born to be unhappy.' 'Would to heaven! (cried Ferdinand, in a transport of grief) the wretch Renaldo had never been born! that is the villain who seduced the affection of this unfortunate woman. I admitted the traitor into my friendship and confidence, relieved him in his necessities; and, like the ungrateful viper, he hath stung the very bosom that cherished him in his distress.' Then he proceeded to inform madam Clement, how he had delivered that same Renaldo from prison, maintained him

him afterwards at a great expence, and, at length, furnished him with a sum of money, and proper credentials to support his interest at the court of Vienna.

Having finished this detail, he asked the physician's sentiments of his wife's distemper, and being told, that her life was in extreme jeopardy, begged he would use his utmost endeavours in her behalf, and even made him a tender of an extraordinary fee; which was refused: he also thanked Madam Clement for her charity and benevolence towards a stranger, and took his leave, with many polite professions of gratitude and esteem. He had no sooner quitted the house, than the physician, who was a humane man, and a foreigner, began to caution the lady against his insinuations, observing, that some circumstances of the story concerning Renaldo, were, to his particular knowledge, contrary to truth: for that he himself had been applied to, for letters of recommendation, in behalf of count Melville, by a Jew merchant of his acquaintance, who had supplied the young gentleman with money sufficient for his occasions, in consequence of a minute inquiry he had made into the character of Renaldo, who was, by all reports, a youth of strict honour, and untainted morals.

Madam Clement, thus cautioned, entered into deliberation with her own thoughts, and comparing the particulars of this account with those of Monimia's own story, she concluded, that Fathom was the very traitor he himself had described; and that he had, by abusing the confidence of both, effected a fatal breach between two innocent and deserving lovers. She accordingly looked upon him with horror and detestation; but, nevertheless resolved to treat him with civility in the mean time, that the poor young lady might not be disturbed in her last moments; for she had now lost all hopes of her recovery. Yet the fever abated, and in two days she retrieved the use of her reason: though the distemper had affected her

lungs, and she was in all appearance doomed to linger a few weeks longer in a consumption.

Fathom was punctual in his visitation, though never admitted into her presence after the delirium vanished ; and he had the opportunity of seeing her conveyed in a chariot to Kensington Gravel-pits, a place which may be termed the last stage of many a mortal peregrination. He now implicitly believed, that death would in a few days baffle all his designs upon the unfortunate Monimia ; and foreseeing, that, as he had owned himself her husband, he might be obliged to defray the expence incurred by her sickness and burial, he very prudently intermitted in his visits, and had recourse to the intelligence of his auxiliaries.

As for Monimia, she approached the goal of life ; not simply with resignation, but with rapture : she enjoyed, in tranquillity, the conversation of her kind benefactress, who never stirred from her apartment ; she was blessed with the spiritual consolation of a worthy clergyman, who removed all her religious scruples ; and she congratulated herself on the near prospect of that land of peace where sorrow is not known.

At length Mrs. la Mer gave notice to our adventurer of this amiable young lady's decease, and the time fixed for the interment : upon which these two virtuous associates took possession of a place, from whence they could, unperceived, behold the funeral. He must have a hard heart, who, without an emotion of pity, can see the last offices performed to a young creature cut off in the flower of youth and beauty, even though he knows not her name, and is an utter stranger to her virtues.—How callous then must the soul of that wretch have been, who, without a symptom of remorse or concern, saw the sable hearse adorned with white plumes, as emblems of Monimia's purity, pass before him, while her incomparable

rable merit stood full in his remembrance, and he knew himself the wicked cause of her untimely fate !

Perfidious wretch ! thy crimes turn out so atrocious, that I half repent me of having undertaken to record thy memoirs : yet such monsters ought to be exhibited to public view, that mankind may be upon their guard against imposture ; that the world may see how fraud is apt to overshoot itself : and that, as virtue, though it may suffer for a while, will triumph in the end ; so iniquity, though it may prosper for a season, will at last be overtaken by that punishment and disgrace which are its due.

C H A P. L.

Fathom shifts the scene, and appears in a new character.

FATHOM's expectations, with respect to the fair orphan, having thus proved abortive, he lost no time in bewailing his miscarriage, but had immediate recourse to other means of improving his small fortune, which, at this period, amounted to near two hundred pounds. Whatever inclination he had to resume the character he had formerly bore in the polite world, he durst not venture to launch out again into the expence necessary to maintain that station, because his former resources were now stopt, and all the people of fashion by this time convinced of his being a needy adventurer. Nevertheless, he resolved to sound the sentiments of his old friends at a distance, and judge, from the reception he should meet with, how far he might presume upon their countenance and favour : for he rightly supposed, that, if he could in any shape contribute to their interest or amusement, they would easily forgive his former pretensions to quality, arrogant as they were, and still entertain him on the footing of a necessary acquaintance.

With this view, he one day presented himself at

court in a very gay suit of clothes, and bowed, at a distance, to many of his old fashionable friends of both sexes, not one of whom favoured him with any other notice, than that of a quarter curt'sy, or slight inclination of the head : for, by this time, the few that remembered him knew from what retirement he now emerged, and avoided him accordingly as the jail infection : but the greater part of those who had cultivated him in the zenith of his fortune, were now utter strangers to his person, which they had actually forgot, amidst the succession of novelties that surrounded them ; or, if they did recollect his name, it was remembered as an old fashion which had been many months out of date.

Notwithstanding these mortifying discouragements, our hero, that same evening, effected a lodgement in a certain gaming-house not far from St. James's ; and, as he played pretty high, and made a parade of his ready money, he was soon recognized by divers persons of consequence, who cordially welcomed him to England, on pretence of believing he had been abroad, and with great complacency repeated their former professions of friendship. Though this was a certain way of retaining the favour of those worthies, while his finances continued to flourish and his payments were prompt, he knew the weakness of his funds too well, to think they could bear the vicissitudes of play ; and the remembrance of the two British knights who had spoiled him at Paris hung over his imagination with the most frightful presages : besides, he perceived that gaming was now managed in such a manner, as rendered skill and dexterity of no advantage : for the spirit of play having overspread the land, like a pestilence, raged to such a degree of madness and desperation, that the unhappy people who were infected, laid aside all thoughts of amusement, œconomy, or caution, and risked their fortunes upon issues equally extravagant, childish, and absurd.

The whole mystery of the art was reduced to the simple exercise of tossing up a guinea, and the lust of laying wagers, which they indulged to a surprising pitch of ridiculous intemperance. In one corner of the room might be heard a pair of lordlings running their grandmothers against each other, that is, betting sums on the longest liver; in another the success of the wager depended upon the sex of the landlady's next child; and one of the waiters happening to drop down in an apoplectic fit, a certain noble peer exclaimed, 'Dead for a thousand pounds.' The challenge was immediately accepted; and when the master of the house sent for a surgeon to attempt the cure, the nobleman who set the price upon the patient's head, insisted upon his being left to the efforts of nature alone, otherwise the wager should be void; nay, when the landlord harped upon the loss he should sustain by the death of a trusty servant, his lordship obviated the objection, by desiring that the fellow might be charged in the bill.

In short, the rage of gaining seemed to have devoured all their other faculties, and to have equalled the rash enthusiasm of the inhabitants of Malacca in the East Indies, who are so possessed with that pernicious spirit, that they sacrifice to it not only their fortunes, but also their wives and children; and then letting their hair down upon their shoulders, in imitation of the ancient Lacedemonians when they devoted themselves to death, those wretches unsheathe their daggers, and murder every living creature in their way. In this, however, they differ from the gamblers of our country, who never find their lenses, until they have lost their fortunes, and beggared their families; whereas the Malayse never 'run a muck,' but in consequence of misery and despair.

Such are the amusements, or rather, such is the continual employment of those hopeful youths who are destined by birth to be the judges of our property, and pillars of our constitution: such are the heirs

heirs and representatives of those patriots who planned, and those heroes who maintained, the laws and freedom of their country; who were the patrons of merit, the fathers of the poor, the terror of vice and immorality, and, at once, the ornaments and support of an happy nation.

Our adventurer considered all these circumstances with his wonted sagacity, and seeing upon what precarious footing he must stand, should he rank himself with such society, he wisely came to the resolution of descending one step in the degrees of life, and of taking upon him the title of physician, under which he did not despair of insinuating himself into the pockets of his patients, and into the secrets of private families, so as to acquire a comfortable share of practice, or captivate the heart of some heiress or rich widow, whose fortune would at once render him independent and happy.

After this determination, his next care was to concert measures for his first appearance in this new character; well knowing, that the success of a physician, in a great measure, depends upon the external equipage in which he first declares himself an adept in the healing art. He first of all procured a few books on the subject of medicine, which he studied with great attention, during the remaining part of the winter and spring, and repaired to Tunbridge with the first of the season, where he appeared in the uniform of Æsculapius, namely, a plain suit full trimmed, with a voluminous tye perriwig; believing that in this place he might glide as it were imperceptibly into the functions of his new employment, and gradually accustom himself to the method and form of prescription.

A man so well-known in the gay world could not be supposed to effect such a transformation, without being observed; and therefore, in order to anticipate the censure and ridicule of those who might be tempted to make themselves merry at his expence,

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he, on his arrival at the Wells, repaired to the shop of an apothecary, and calling for pen, ink, and paper, wrote a prescription, which he desired might be immediately made up. While this was doing by the servant, he was invited into a parlour by the master, with whom he entered into conversation touching the properties of the Tunbridge-water, which seemed to have been his particular study: and indeed he had perused Rouzee's treatise on that subject with indefatigable assiduity. From this theme, he made digressions into other parts of medicine, upon which he spoke with such plausible elocution, that the apothecary, whose knowledge in that art was not very profound, looked upon him as a physician of great learning and experience, and hinted a desire of knowing his name and situation.

Fathom accordingly gave him to understand, that he had studied physic, and had taken his degrees at Padua, rather for his amusement, than with any view of exercising medicine, as he then could not possibly foresee the misfortunes which had since happened to his family, and by which he was now compelled to have recourse to a profession that was very much beneath the expectations of his birth. Yet he bore his disappointments with resignation, and even good humour, and blessed his stars for having inclined him to the study of any branch of knowledge by which he might be enabled to laugh at the vicissitudes of fortune. He then observed, that he had practised with some applause at the hot-well near Bristol, before he thought he should be ever reduced to the necessity of taking a fee; and that, in all probability, his metamorphosis, when known, would furnish matter of surprise and merriment to some of his old acquaintance.

The apothecary was equally struck with his polite address, and pleased with his agreeable discourse: he consoled him for the misfortunes of his family, by assuring him, that in England nothing could be

more honourable, or indeed profitable, than the character of a physician, provided he could once wriggle himself into practice; and insinuated, that although he was restricted by certain engagements with other persons of the faculty, he should be glad of an opportunity to shew his regard for doctor Fathom. This was a very effectual method which our hero took to intimate his new character to the public. By the industry and communicative disposition of the apothecary, it was circulated in half a day through every family in the place; and next morning, when Ferdinand appeared, the company forthwith assembled in separate groups, and from each knot he heard his name reverberated in a whisper.

Having thus announced himself to all whom it might concern, and allowed the ladies two days to discuss the merit of his transfiguration, together with the novelty of the case, he ventured to salute, at a distance, a lady and her daughter, who had been his patients at the hot-well; and although they honoured his bow with the return of a slight curtsey, they gave him not the least encouragement to make a nearer approach. Notwithstanding this rebuff, he concluded, that should the health of either come in question, they would renew their application to his skill, and what was refused by their pride, would be granted by their apprehension. Here, however, he happened to be mistaken in his conjecture.

The young lady, being seized with a violent headache and palpitation, her mother desired the apothecary to recommend a physician; and the person with whom he was contracted being at that time absent, he proposed doctor Fathom as a man of great ability and discretion: but the good lady rejected the proposal with disdain, because she had formerly known him in the character of a count; though that very character was the chief reason that had then induced her to crave his advice.

Such

Such is the caprice of the world in general, that whatever bears the face of novelty captivates, or rather bewitches the imagination, and confounds the ideas of reason and common sense. If, for example, a scullion, from the clinking of pewter, shall conceive a taste for the clinking of rhyme, and make shift to bring together twenty syllables, so as that the tenth and last shall have the like ending, the composition is immediately extolled as a miracle; and what appeals to the admiration, is not the wit, the elegance or poetry of the work, but the uncultivated talent, and humble station of the author. A reader does not exclaim, ‘What a delicate sentiment! what a beautiful simile! what easy and musical versification!’ but cries in rapture, ‘Heavens! what a prodigy! a poet from the scullery! a muse in livery! or, ‘Apollo with a trowel!’—The public is astonished into liberality—the scullion eats from those trenchers he scoured before—the footman is admitted into the coach, behind which he was wont to stand; and the bricklayer, instead of plastering walls, bedaubes his illustrious partner with the mortar of his praise. Thus, lifted into an higher sphere, their talents receive cultivation; they become professed bards, and though their subsequent works bear evident marks of improvement, they are neglected among the rest of their brethren, because that novelty, which recommended them in the beginning, no longer remains.

So it fared with our adventurer in his new occupation. There was something so extraordinary in a nobleman’s understanding medicine; and so uncommon in a physician’s prescribing gratis, that the curiosity and admiration of the company at Bristol were engaged, and they followed his advice, as the direction of some supernatural intelligence: but, now that he professed himself one of the faculty, and might be supposed to have refreshed his memory, and reinforced his knowledge for the occasion, he was as much overlooked as any other physician unsupported

by interest or cabal; or, at least, the notice he attracted was not at all to the advantage of his character, because it wholly regarded the decline of his fortune, which is a never-failing fund of disgrace.

These mortifications did not overcome the patience and perseverance of Fathom, who foresaw that the soothing hand of time would cast a veil of oblivion over those scenes which were remembered to his prejudice; and that, in the mean time, though he was excluded from the private parties of the fair sex, in which his main hope of success was placed, he should be able to insinuate himself into some degree of favour and practice among the male patients; and some lucky cure, properly displayed, might be the means of propagating his fame, and banishing that reserve which at present interferred with his purpose. Accordingly, it was not long before he found means to break that spell of universal prejudice that hedged him in. At the ordinary which he frequented, his polite carriage, facetious remarks, and agreeable stories, soon conciliated the regard of his fellow-guests, among whom he sometimes rallied his own transformation with singular good humour and success: he was even witty upon his want of employment, and used to observe, that a physician, without practice, had one comfort to which his brethren were strangers, namely, that the seldomer he had occasion to prescribe, the less he had upon his conscience on account of being accessory to the death of his fellow-creatures.

Nothing so effectually blunts the shafts of ridicule, and defeats the aims of slander, as this method of anticipation. In spite of the arrows that were levelled against his reputation from every tea-table at Tunbridge, he made his party good among almost all the gay young gentlemen that frequented the place: far from avoiding his company, they began to court his conversation, and he was commonly seen in the walks, surrounded with a group of admirers.

Having thus paved the way for a total removal of the

the invidious prepossession that obstructed his views, he, one night, while every person was lulled in the arms of repose, and universal silence prevailed, tuned his violin, and began to play some masterly airs, in a tone so uncommonly expressive, and with such ravishing dexterity of execution, that a certain lady, who lodged in the same house, being waked by the music, and ignorant of the source from which it flowed, listened with rapture, as to the harp of an angel, and wrapping herself in a loose gown, rose and opened her chamber-door, in order to discover in what apartment the musician resided. She no sooner entered the passage, than she found her fellow lodgers already assembled on the same occasion; and there they remained during the best part of the night, transported by the harmony which our hero produced.

Doctor Fathom was immediately known to be the author of this entertainment; and thus retrieved the benefit of that admiration which he had forfeited by appearing in the shape of a physician. For, as people had formerly wondered to see a count skilled in medicine; they were now amazed to find a physician such a master in music.

The good effects of this stratagem were almost instantaneous. His performance became the topic of discourse among all the fashionable company: his male friends complimented him from the information of the other sex; and that lady whom he had regaled, instead of that shyness and disdain with which she used to receive his salutation, at their very next meeting in the thorough-fare, returned his bow with marks of profound respect. Nay, at midnight, she, with the rest, took post in the same place where they had been stationed before; and by frequent tittering and repeated whispers, gave intimation to Fathom that they would be glad of a second serenade. But he was too well acquainted with the human passions to indulge this their desire: it was his interest to inflame their impatience, rather than to gratify their expectation:

expectation : and therefore he tantalized them for some hours, by tuning his violin, and playing some flourishes, which, however, produced nothing to fulfil their wishes.

At the ordinary, he was accosted by a gentleman, a lodger in the same house, who assured him that the ladies would take it as a great favour if he would let them know when he intended to amuse himself again with his instrument, that they might not, by falling asleep before-hand, deprive themselves of the pleasure of hearing his music. To this message he replied with an air of consequence and reserve, that though music was not the art he professed, he should be always complaisant enough to entertain the ladies to the utmost of his power, when their commands were signified to him in a manner suited to his character ; but that he would never put himself on the footing of an itinerant barper, whose music is tolerated through the medium of a board partition. The gentleman having reported this answer to his constituents, they empowered him to invite doctor Fathom to breakfast, and he was next morning introduced with the usual ceremony, and treated with uncommon regard by all the females of the house, assembled for his reception.

Having thus broke the ice of their aversion, in one part, so as that the beams of his personal accomplishments had room to operate, he soon effected a general thaw in his favour, and found himself growing once more into request among the most amiable part of the creation. His company was coveted, and his taste consulted in their balls, concerts, and private assemblies ; and he recompenced the regard they paid to him, with an incessant exertion of his agreeable talents, politeness, and good humour.

C H A P. LI.

Triumphs over a medical rival.

Y E T, in the midst of all this attention; his medical capacity seemed to be quite forgot. They respected his good breeding, were charmed with his voice, and admired the fine touches of his hand upon the violin; but in cultivating the fiddler, they utterly neglected the physician; and in vain did he attempt to divide their regard, by taking all opportunities to turn the conversation into a more interesting channel. It was to little purpose he endeavoured to arouse the wonder of his audience with frequent descriptions of portentous maladies and amazing cures he had seen and performed in the course of his study and practice abroad: and to no effect did he publicly busy himself in making experiments on the mineral water, in which he pretended to have made several new and important discoveries. These efforts did not make a lasting impression upon the minds of the company; because they saw nothing surprizing in a physician's being acquainted with all the mysteries of his art; and as their custom was already bespoke for others of the profession, whom it was their interest to employ, our adventurer might have starved amidst the carelessness of his acquaintance, had not he derived considerable advantage from a lucky accident in the course of his expectancy.

A gentlewoman's daughter, of a weakly constitution, by drinking the waters, had so far recovered her health and complexion, as to allure the affection of a young squire in the neighbourhood, who amused her for some time with his addresses, until his heart was seduced by the charms of another young lady lately arrived at the Wells. The forsaken nymph, shocked at this disgrace and mortification, relapsed into her former languishing disorder, and was by

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her mother put under the management and prescription of a physician, who had been an industrious enemy of Fathom, from his first appearance at Tunbridge. The patient, though violently chagrined at the levity of her quondam admirer, was not altogether without hope, that the very same inconstancy which had prompted him to leave her, might in time induce him to return, after the novelty of his new passion should be wore off; and this hope served to support her under the sorrow and disgrace of her disappointment. At length, however, the squire and his new mistress disappeared, and some busy body was officious enough to communicate this piece of news to the forlorn Shepherdess, with this additional circumstance, that they were gone to a neighbouring parish, to be joined in the bands of wedlock.

These fatal tidings were no sooner imparted to the abandoned Phillis, than she was seized with an hysterical fit; and what rendered the accident more unfortunate, her physician had been called to the country, and was not expected at Tunbridge till next day. The apothecary was immediately summoned; and being either puzzled by the symptoms, or afraid of encroaching upon the province of his superiors, advised the old lady to send for doctor Fathom without delay. She had no other objection to this expedient, but the enmity which she knew subsisted between the two loeches: yet hearing that her own doctor would not consult with Fathom upon his return, but perhaps renounce the patient, by which means her daughter's health might be endangered, she would not solicit our hero's assistance, until the young lady had remained seven hours speechless and insensible; when her fear prevailing over every other consideration, she implored the advice of our adventurer, who having made the necessary interrogations, and felt the patient's pulse, which was regular and distinct, found reason to conclude, that the fit would

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not last much longer; and after having observed that she was in a very dangerous way, prescribed some medicines for external application; and to enhance their opinion of his diligence and humanity, resolved to stay in the room and observe their effect.

His judgment did not fail him on this occasion. In less than half an hour after his embrocations had been applied, she recovered the use of her tongue, opened her eye, and having in delirious exclamations upbraided her perfidious lover, became quite sensible and composed; though she continued extremely low and dejected: to remedy these sinkings, certain cordials were immediately administered, according to the prescription of doctor Fathom, upon whom extraordinary encomiums were bestowed by all present, who believed he had actually rescued her from the jaws of death; and as he was by this time let into the secrets of the family, he found himself in a fair way of being an egregious favourite of the old gentlewoman; when unluckily his brother, having dismissed his country patient with uncommon dispatch, entered the apartment, and eyed his rival with looks of inexpressible rage; then surveying the patient, and the vials that stood upon the table, by turns, ‘What, ‘in the name of God!’ cried he, ‘is the meaning of ‘all this trash?’

‘Really, doctor,’ replied the mother, a little confounded at being thus taken by surprize, ‘Biddy has been taken dangerously ill, and lain seven or eight hours in a severe fit, from which, I am confident, she would never have recovered, without the help of a physician; and as you were absent, we had recourse to this gentleman, whose prescription hath had an happy and surprising effect.’ ‘Effect!’ cried the offended member of the faculty, ‘pshaw! stuff, who made you judge of effects or causes?’ Then advancing to the patient, ‘What has been the matter, miss Biddy, that you could not wait till my return?’

Here Fathom interposing, ‘Sir,’ said he, ‘if you will step into the next room, I will communicate my sentiments of the case, together with the method upon which I have proceeded, that we may deliberate upon the next step that is to be taken.’—

Instead of complying with this proposal, he seated himself in a chair, with his back to our adventurer, and while he examined miss Biddy’s pulse, gave him to understand, that he should not consult with him about the matter,

Fathom, not in the least disconcerted at this uncivil answer, walked round his antagonist, and placing himself in his front, desired to know his reason for treating him with such supercilious contempt. ‘I am resolved,’ said the other, ‘never to consult with any physician who has not taken his degrees at either of the English universities.’ ‘Upon the supposition,’ replied our adventurer, ‘that no person can be properly educated for the profession at any other school.’ ‘You are in the right,’ (answered doctor Looby) ‘that is one of many reasons I have to decline the consultation.’

‘How far you are in the right, (retorted Fathom) I leave the world to judge, after I have observed, that in your English universities, there is no opportunity of studying the art; no, not so much as a lecture given on the subject: nor is there one physician of note in this kingdom, who has not derived the greatest part of his medical knowledge from the instructions of foreigners?’

Looby, incensed at this asseveration, which he was not prepared to refute, exclaimed in a most infuriate accent, ‘Who are you? whence came you? where was you bred? you are one of those I believe who graduate themselves, and commence doctors the Lord knows how: an interloper, who, without licence or authority, come hither to take the bread out of the mouths of gentlemen who have been trained to the business in a regular manner, and be-
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stewed great pains and expence to qualify themselves for the profession : for my own part, my education cost me fifteen hundred pounds.'

' Never was money laid out to less purpose, (said Ferdinand) for it does not appear that you have learned so much as the basis of medical acquirements, namely, that decorum and urbanity which ought to distinguish the deportment of every physician : you have even debased the noblest and most beneficial art that ever engaged the study of mankind, which cannot be too much cultivated, and too little restrained, in seeking to limit the practice of it, to a set of narrow-minded illiberal wretches, who, like the lowest handcraftsmen, claim the exclusive privileges of a corporation : had you doubted my ability, you ought to have satisfied yourself in a manner consistent with decency and candour : but your behaviour, on this occasion, is such a malicious outrage upon good manners and humanity, that, were it not for my regard to these ladies, I would chastise you for your insolence on the spot. Mean while, madam, (addressing himself to the mother) you must give me leave to insist upon your dismissing either that gentleman or me without hesitation.'

This peremptory language had an instantaneous effect upon the hearers. Looby's face grew pale, and his nether lip began to tremble; the patient was dismayed, and the old gentlewoman concerned and perplexed : she earnestly besought the gentlemen to be reconciled to each other, and enter into a friendly consultation upon her daughter's distemper : but finding both equally averse to accommodation, and Fathom becoming more and more importunate in his demand, she presented him with a double fee ; and giving him to understand, that doctor Looby had long attended the family, and was intimately acquainted with her own and Biddy's constitution, said, she hoped he would not take it amiss if she retained her old physician.

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Though our hero was much mortified at this triumph of his rival, he made a virtue of necessity, and retired with great complaisance, wishing, that Miss Biddy might never be the subject of such a disagreeable dispute. Whether the patient was frightened at this altercation, or displeased with her mother's decision against an agreeable young fellow, who had, as it were, recalled her from the grave, and made himself master of the secret that rankled at her heart: or the disease had wound up her nerves for another paroxysm; certain it is, she, all of a sudden, broke forth into a violent peal of laughter, which was succeeded by the most doleful cries, and other expressions of grief; then she relapsed into a fit, attended with strong convulsions, to the unspeakable terror of the old gentlewoman, who intreated doctor Looby to be expeditious in his prescription: accordingly he seized the pen with great confidence, and a whole magazine of anti hysterick medicines were, in different forms, externally and internally applied.

Nevertheless, either nature was disturbed in her own efforts by these applications, or the patient was resolved to disgrace the doctor: for the more remedies that were administered, her convulsions became the more violent; and in spite of all his endeavours, he could not overcome the obstinacy of the distemper. Such a miscarriage upon the back of his rival's success, could not fail to overwhelm him with confusion; especially as the mother baited him with repeated intreaties to do something for the recovery of her daughter: at length, after having exercised her patience in vain for several hours, this affectionate parent could no longer suppress the suggestions of her concern, but, in an incoherent strain, told him that her duty would not suffer her to be longer silent in an affair on which depended the life of her dear child: that she had seen enough to believe he had mistaken the case of poor Biddy, and he could not justly blame her for recalling

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ing doctor Fathom, whose prescription had operated in a miraculous manner.

Looby, shocked at this proposal, protested against it with great vehemence, as an expedient highly injurious to himself. ‘ My remedies (said he) are just beginning to take effect, and, in all probability, the fit will not last much longer, so that, by calling in another person at this juncture, you will defraud me of that credit which is my due, and deck my adversary with trophies to which he has no pretension.’ She was prevailed upon, by this remonstrance, to wait another half hour, when perceiving, as yet, no alteration for the better, and being distracted with her fears, which reproached her with want of natural affection, she sent a message to doctor Fathom, desiring to see him with all possible dispatch.

He was not slow in obeying the call, but hastening to the scene of action, was not a little surprised to find Looby still in the apartment. This gentleman, since better might not be, resolved to sacrifice his pride to his interest, and rather than lose his patient altogether, and run the risque of forfeiting his reputation at the same time, staid with intention to compromise his difference with Fathom, that he might not be wholly excluded from the honour of the cure, in case it could be effected: but he had reckoned without his host in his calculation of the count’s placability; for, when he put on his capitulating face, and after a slight apology for his behaviour, proposed that all animosity should subside in favour of the young lady, whose life was at stake; our hero rejected his advances with infinite disdain, and assured the mother, in a very solemn tone, that, far from consulting with a man who had treated him so unworthily, he would not stay another minute in the house, unless he should see him discarded: a satisfaction barely sufficient to atone for the affront he himself had suffered by the unjust preference she had before given to his rival.

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There was no remedy : Looby was obliged to retreat in his turn ; then our adventurer, approaching the bed side, reconnoitred the patient, examined the medicines which had been administered ; and lifting up his eyes in expressive silence, detached the foot-man with a new order to the apothecary. It was well the messenger used expedition, otherwise doctor Fathom would have been anticipated by the operation of nature ; for, the fit having almost run its career, Miss Biddy was on the point of retrieving her senses, when the frontal prescribed by Fathom was applied. To the efficacy of this therefore was ascribed her recovery, when she opened her eyes, and began to pour forth unconnected ejaculations ; and in a few moments after, she was persuaded to swallow a draught prepared for the purpose ; her perception returned, and Ferdinand gained the reputation of having performed a second miracle.

But he was furnished with a piece of intelligence of much more energy than all she had taken ; and so soon as he concluded she was capable to bear the news without any dangerous emotion, he, among other articles of chit-chat culled for her amusement, took the opportunity of telling the company, that squire Stub (the cause of Miss Biddy's disorder) had, in his way to matrimony, been robbed of his bride, by a gentleman to whom she had been formerly engaged. He had waited for her on purpose at an inn on the road, where he found means to appease her displeasure, which he had, it seems incurred, and to supersede her new lover, whom she quitted without ceremony ; upon which the squire had returned to Tunbridge, cursing her levity, yet blessing his good stars for having so seasonably prevented his ruin, which would have infallibly been the consequence of his marrying such an adventurer.

It would be superfluous to observe that these tidings operated, like an admirable specific, on the spirit of the young lady, who, while she affected to pity

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the squire, was so much overjoyed at his disappointment, that her eyes began to sparkle with uncommon vivacity, and in less than two hours after the last of those terrible attacks, she was restored to a better state of health than she had enjoyed for many weeks. Fathom was not forgetful amidst the rejoicings of the family ; besides an handsome gratuity for the effects of his extraordinary skill, the old lady favoured him with a general invitation to her house, and the daughter not only considered him as the restorer of her health, and angel of her good fortune, but also began to discover an uncommon relish for his conversation ; so that he was struck with the prospect of succeeding squire Stub in her affection : a conquest which, if sanctioned by the approbation of the mother, would console him for all the disappointments he had sustained ; for Miss Biddy was intitled to a fortune of ten thousand pounds, provided she would marry with the consent of her parent, who was the sole executrix of the father's will.

Animated with the hope of such an advantageous match, our adventurer missed no opportunity of improving the lodgement he had made, while the two ladies failed not to extol his medical capacity, among all their female acquaintance. By means of this circulation, his advice was demanded in several other cases, which he managed with such an imposing air of sagacity and importance, that his fame began to spread, and before the end of the season, he had ravished more than one half of the business from his competitor. Notwithstanding these fortunate events, he foresaw, that he should find great difficulty in transplanting his reputation, so as to take root in London, which was the only soil in which he could propose to rise to any degree of prosperity and independance : and this reflection was grounded upon a maxim which universally prevails among the English people, namely, to overlook and wholly neglect, on their return to the metropolis, all the connections they may have chanced

chanced to acquire during their residence at any of the medical wells: and this social disposition is so scrupulously maintained, that two persons who lived in the most intimate correspondence at Bath or Tunbridge shall, in for and twenty hours so totally forget their friendship, as to meet in St. James's Park, without betraying the least token of recognition; so that one would imagine those mineral waters were so many streams issuing from the river Lethe, so famed of old for washing away all traces of memory and recollection.

Aware of this oblivious principle, doctor Fathom collected all his qualifications, in order to make such an impression upon the heart of miss Biddy, as would resist all her endeavours to shake him from her remembrance; and his efforts succeeded so well, that squire Stub's advances to a reconciliation, were treated with manifest indifference. In all probability, our hero would have made a very advantageous campaign, had not his good fortune been retarded by an obstruction, which (as he did not perceive it) he could not possibly surmount: in displaying his accomplishments to captivate the daughter, he had unwittingly made an absolute conquest of the mother, who superintended the conduct of miss Biddy with such jealous vigilance, that she could find no opportunity of profiting by the progress he had made in her heart; for the careful matron would never lose sight of her, no, not for one moment.

Had the old lady given the least intimation to our adventurer, of the sentiments she entertained in his behalf, his complaisance was of such a pliable texture, that he would have quitted his other pursuit, and made her the sole object of his attention: but she either depended upon the effect of his own good taste and discernment, or was too proud to disclose a passion which he had hitherto overlooked.

C H A P. LII.

Repairs to the metropolis, and enrolls himself among the sons of Paean.

BEFORE this affair could be brought to a proper explanation, the season being almost ended, the ladies departed from Tunbridge, and in a little time doctor Fathom followed them to London, having previously obtained permission to visit them in that metropolis. He had solicited the same favour of some other families, in which he hoped to take root, though he knew they were pre-engaged to different physicians; and resolving to make his first medical appearance in London with some eclat, he not only purchased an old chariot, which was new painted for the purpose, but likewise hired a footman, whom he cloathed in laced livery, in order to distinguish himself from the common run of his brethren.

This equipage, though much more expensive than his finances could bear, he found absolutely necessary, to give him a chance for employment; as every shabby retainer to physic in this capital, had provided himself with a vehicle, which was altogether used by way of a travelling sign-post, to draw in customers; so that a walking-physician was considered as an obscure pedlar, trudging from street to street, with his pack of knowledge on his shoulders, and selling his remnants of advice by retail. A chariot was not now set up for the convenience of a man sinking under the fatigue of extensive practice, but as a piece of furniture every way as necessary as a large periwig with three tails; and a physician, let his merit in other respects be never so conspicuous, can no more expect to become considerable in business, without the assistance of this implement, than he can hope to live without food, or breathe without a windpipe.

This requisite is so well understood, that exclusive
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of those who profess themselves doctors, every raw surgeon, every idle apothecary, who can make interest with some fool-hardy coachmaker, may be seen dancing the bays in all places of public resort, and grinning to one another from their respective carriages. Hence proceed many of those cruel accidents which are recorded in the daily papers. An apothecary's horses take fright, and run away with his chariot, which is heard of no more: an eminent surgeon being overturned, is so terrified at the thoughts of mutilation, that he resolve to walk on foot all the days of his life; and the coachman of a physician of great practice having the misfortune to be disabled by a fall from the box, his master can never find another to supply his place.

None of these observations escaped the penetrating eye of Fathom, who, before he pretended to seat himself in this machine, had made proper inquiry into all the other methods practised, with a view to keep the wheels in motion.

5 JA 59

End of Vol. III.

Of The Adventures of Count Fathom,